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MAZADA TOURS

VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19514 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1997 • ADAR I 14, 5757 • 14 SHAWAL 1417 NIS 7.00 (EST. NIS 6.00)

**Maccabi TA makes Sweet 16**  
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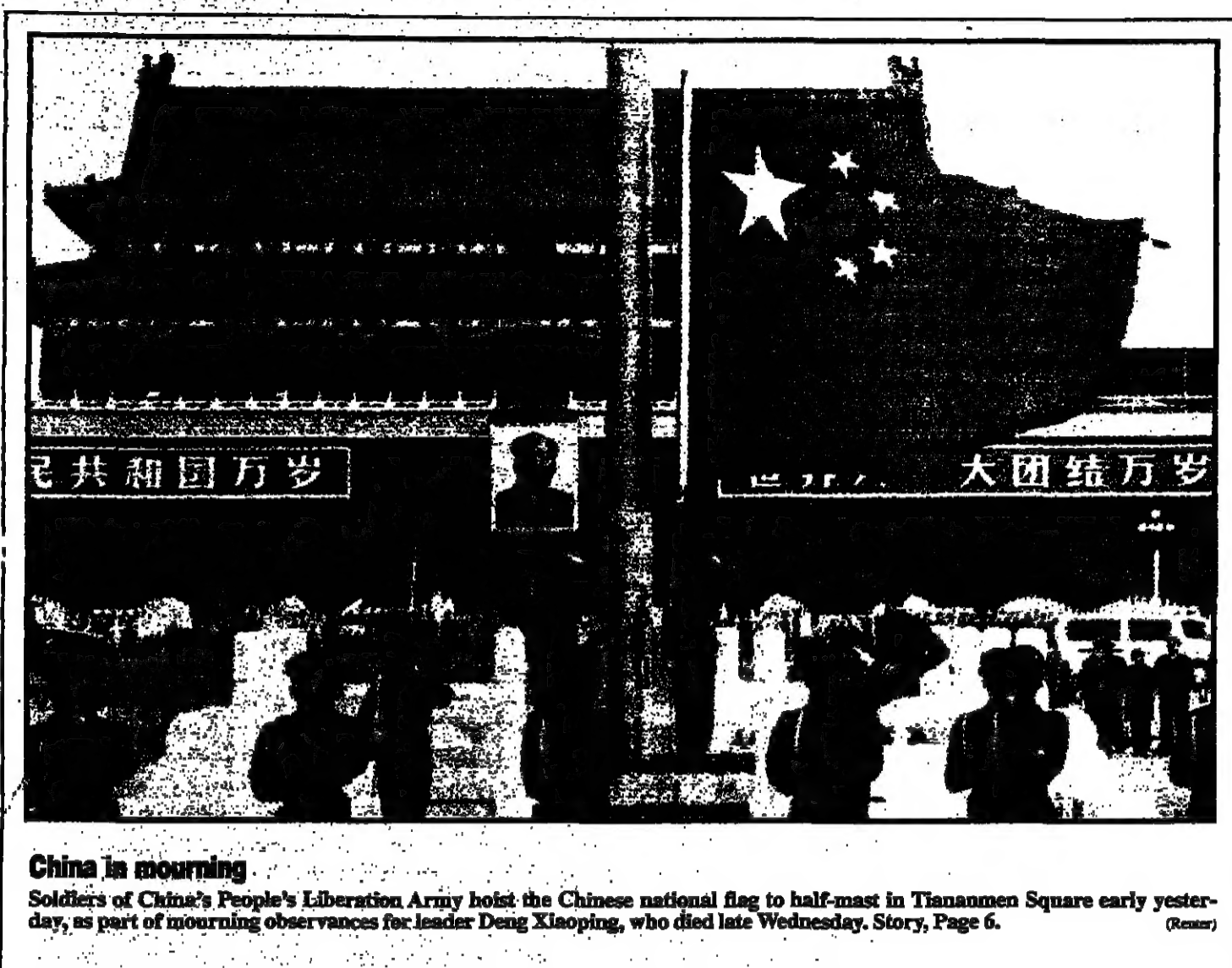
**Sassi and Shlomit's music**  
Time Out



**The women wonders of Ramle**  
The Magazine

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**China in mourning**  
Soldiers of China's People's Liberation Army hoist the Chinese national flag to half-mast in Tiananmen Square early yesterday, as part of mourning observances for leader Deng Xiaoping, who died late Wednesday. Story, Page 6.

## Indictment in Bar-On affair likely - report

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and Jerusalem Post Staff

Members of the team investigating the alleged Bar-On-for-Hebron affair and sources in the State Attorney's office believe that, based on evidence gathered until now, they will be able to recommend filing an indictment, Israel Radio reported last night.

The report said the charge is not related to any criminal activity specifically related to either the Bar-On-for-Hebron deal or claims that Bar-On supported a plea bargain for Shas MK Aryeh Deri.

Also last night, Channel 1 reported that police are investigating whether Deri pressured Ma'ariv not to publish news of attorney Roni Bar-On's candidacy for attorney-general, so as not to sabotage the appointment.

The police have been probing suspicions that Deri extorted Bar-On's appointment as attorney-general from the cabinet, in the hope Bar-On could arrange a plea bargain or other benefits. The allegations are that Deri threatened that Shas would not support the Hebron agreement unless Bar-On was appointed.

During questioning by police Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is believed to have denied that Deri struck any deal with him or anyone else regarding Bar-On's appointment.

Investigators met yesterday with State Attorney Edna Arbel and her aides to discuss Netanyahu's testimony and how to proceed further.

Efforts are focusing on whether or not several individuals already questioned by police were guilty of fraud or breach of trust, and perhaps blackmail. These include Deri, who police believe pressured various individuals, including some in the Prime Minister's Office, to have Bar-On appointed.

At this stage, police do not have evidence to support Channel 1's

claims that Bar-On promised Deri a plea bargain if appointed, or that Deri demanded Bar-On's appointment in exchange for Shas supporting the withdrawal from Hebron.

The investigation is expected to enter its final stages next week, with several new individuals to be called in for questioning. Director-General Avigdor Lieberman and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi are also to be questioned again. The investigation is expected to last at least another two weeks.

Deri's attorney in his ongoing trial on bribery charges, Navot Tel-Zur, asked to meet Arbel next week to discuss the implications of the resignation of Deri's top lawyer on the team, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, and the resulting difficulty in continuing the trial.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani hinted yesterday that Avi-Yitzhak's resignation is significant to the investigation. "Read between the lines and the headlines, and add one, and one," he said. "Certain people planned the move and they had partners. Who did what, and whether it went as far as the justice minister and prime minister, that will have to be investigated."

Hasson, who broke the Bar-On-for-Hebron story last month, reported yesterday that Deri acted from the start to appoint Bar-On, despite his statement that he only did so to keep Avi-Yitzhak, who was also a candidate, as his attorney.

Hasson said a week before news of Bar-On's candidacy appeared in Ma'ariv, the newspaper's reporter Ofir Hacham called Bar-On to ask whether he was the leading candidate. Bar-On denied the story.

Immediately afterwards, Deri telephoned Ma'ariv owner Ofir Nimrodi and urged him not to publish the story. How did Deri know of the report and why did he try to hide

it? asked Hasson.

A few days later, Deri called Nimrodi again, and when he understood the report was to be published, asked that the newspaper stress that Judge Zvi Tal was Shas's candidate. He also asked that if Bar-On's name was to be mentioned, the paper should write good things about him and say he is a leading criminal attorney and "high-powered."

Ma'ariv checked this out and found out, in addition to more details about Bar-On, that Tal was not a candidate. The newspaper did not fulfill Deri's requests, Hasson said.

When the Bar-On-for-Hebron affair was exposed, Deri claimed he hardly knew Bar-On and the only contact he had with him was a meeting five or six years ago, and another meeting at a party after Bar-On had resigned, Hasson continued.

Why, then, she asked, did Deri exert pressure not to publicize the candidacy of a man he was not in contact with and why, after realizing he could not prevent publication, did he then want good things to be written about him?

Former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair sharply attacked Deri yesterday, stating that a man facing bribery charges cannot serve as the head of a political movement.

"A democratic state, governed by the rule of law, cannot tolerate a situation in which a man facing bribery charges is the leader of a political movement, and as such is courted by all sides of the political spectrum. Can this be comprehended in a democratic regime? Can it be that a man like this should not shut himself up at home until the end of the trial?"

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) asked Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's opinion about suspending the people involved in the Bar-On affair.

**Weizman to host queen in Diana's old home**  
By TOM GROSS

There may not be many links between Princess Diana and the royal family these days, but next week President Ezer Weizman will be providing one.

Some are calling an iron in the saga of the House of Windsor. Weizman will hold the reciprocal banquet traditionally given by visiting heads of state for their host, Queen Elizabeth II, in Spencer House, the former seat of her former daughter-in-law Diana's family.

The queen will host a banquet at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday in Weizman's honor, but since the

**FM cronies get top envoy jobs**  
By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Foreign Minister David Levy appears to have beaten Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a long stalemate on diplomatic appointments, yesterday naming three political cronies to positions in London, Pretoria, and New York.

Dror Zeigerman, a former Levy political appointee in Toronto, was named ambassador to Britain; Uri Oren, a former Levy political appointee in Los Angeles, was named ambassador to South Africa; and Kiryat Yam Mayor Shmuel Siso was named consul-general in New York, a position involving contacts with American Jewish organizations and the major media organizations based in the city.

Heads of American Jewish organizations, asked to comment on Siso's appointment, refused to do so. Leaders of several Jewish organizations in Los Angeles, asking not to be quoted, have made scathing comments about Oren's "non-performance" as consul-general in that city.

Levy's success with these appointments follows his triumph of last summer, when he forced Netanyahu to name another political ally, Elyahu Ben-Elissar, as ambassador to Washington. Netanyahu has yet to name any of his own allies to a diplomatic position.

Aides to Netanyahu refused to comment on why the premier yielded all the appointments to Levy.

The Foreign Ministry's appointments committee has still not named a UN ambassador - a post vacant for eight months, nor has it named envoys to Russia or Turkey.

During a meeting with Levy in September, then US envoy to the UN Madeleine Albright complained that Israel urgently needed to fill the UN post to defend itself

**Toto mania**

Toto fever gripped the country yesterday, as the mounting jackpot passed NIS 21 million and appeared to be headed to a new record, and officials predicted income from contest hopefuls would reach NIS 50m.

Meanwhile, picking this week's winning combination became even more tricky, as a promised storm threatened to cancel many soccer matches.

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## NEWS

in brief

## Arens to be acting Likud convention chairman

Moshe Arens is resuming his political activity and will be appointed acting chairman of the Likud convention today, after a few years as a private businessman.

Arens, formerly foreign minister and defense minister said he decided to return to political life to revive and pull together "the sleepy, inactive movement. It's very important to bring it back to life and full activity." After retiring from the Likud primaries in 1992, Arens went into business and joined tycoon Shaul Eisenberg's company.

Arens was one of the staunchest supporters of Binyamin Netanyahu's candidacy for prime minister, and helped promote the latter's political career in the Likud. *Michal Yudelman*

## Man strangled by his brothers

A resident of the Israeli Arab village of Beit 'Aur a-Tahna was murdered by his two brothers yesterday morning, police said. The two were arrested and have reportedly confessed.

Police say Mustafa Nabata was strangled at his home in the village, situated near Beit Horin. An anonymous call alerted them to the crime and the brothers' car was stopped at a road-block. They were caught when they tried to escape on foot. No explanation for the murder has so far been given, although police said the man's widow is Jewish and a former resident of Ramle. He left three children. *Itim*

## Ministry complains to Bassiouny over Azzam

The Foreign Ministry summoned Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny yesterday to complain that Israeli Arab Azzam Azzam is being held on trumped-up spy charges.

Bassiouny said that Egypt could not intervene since the case is in the hands of the Egyptian courts.

According to Peace Now activists who met with Mubarak in December, the Egyptian president admitted his decision to hold Azzam was unrelated to the merits of the case. Rather, he feared that Azzam's release would be interpreted domestically as yielding to Israeli pressure. *David Makovsky*

## Histadrut signs pact with Palestinian union

The Histadrut and Palestinian Trade Union Federation signed an agreement yesterday that will allow Palestinian workers to sue in Israeli courts for loss of income incurred by closures. Histadrut leader Amir Peretz said, Palestinian workers will be able to make their appeals "in the territories to Histadrut representatives who will set up offices there and receive claims to Israeli courts," he added. *Jon Immanuel*

## Two hurt in road accidents

A 24-year-old motorcyclist was seriously injured on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway when he tried to pass through two cars and hit one of them, ricocheting into the adjacent lane, where he was hit by other cars.

A 30-year-old Acre man who works as a driver for Tnuva was crushed by a car that backed into him near a loading dock at the Tnuva warehouse at Haifa Port. He suffered moderate-to-serious injuries. *Itim*

## Civilian killed in zone fighting

By DAVID RUDGE

Tension remained high in south Lebanon yesterday following more heavy fighting in the region during which a Lebanese civilian was killed, the second this week.

The Lebanese government lodged a complaint with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee over the incident, accusing Israel and the South Lebanese Army of being responsible for the man's death.

Originally, it was claimed that the man died as a result of shelling by IDF and SLA gunners in the region of Frun village, just beyond the northern perimeter of the security zone's central sector.

The IDF Spokesman, however, issued a statement totally denying

the claims, saying that the matter had been investigated and there had been no firing towards Frun.

Later it was reported that the man had died as a result of a roadside bomb, for which the Lebanese authorities, as well as Hizbullah, blamed the IDF and SLA.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said a patrol of troops from the force's Finnish battalion had been sent to the scene of the explosion and had found blood-stains there.

UN sources said it appeared that there had been an explosion caused by some improvised device in the area, but further checks would have to be carried out to find the cause, as well as to identify the victim.

According to the sources there had been some IDF shelling in the general region at the time but it was about two kilometers north of the blast in Frun.

The IDF Spokesman said gunners had returned fire after SLA positions in the Shoumriya region had come under long-range mortar attacks for which the Amal Shi'ite movement had claimed responsibility.

Earlier, Hizbullah gunmen had fired mortars and light weapons at an SLA outpost around Tumat Nila in the Jezzine enclave north of the zone. There were no casualties and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

The fighting, preceded by IDF shelling of terrorist targets north of the zone late Wednesday night

and early yesterday, came as the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group continued to meet at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura over complaints relating to heavy exchanges on Tuesday.

During that fighting, a Lebanese woman was killed and two other civilians were wounded. The Lebanese government protested to the monitoring group over the incidents, accusing Israel of being responsible for the civilian casualties.

Israel maintained that the shelling was in self-defense and that Hizbullah gunmen were responsible for firing from inside villages north of the zone, violating understandings that ended the Grapes of Wrath fighting last April.

Reports from Lebanon said the five-nation monitoring group, after an all-night session, which began on Wednesday, had issued a statement yesterday condemning Tuesday's IDF shelling which resulted in the civilian casualties.

The IDF Spokesman, however, said the group had denounced the exchanges and had expressed its deep concern over the death of the Lebanese woman as a result of the firing. The group reiterated its call to all the sides to abide by the understandings and to prevent endangering civilians.

UN sources said the monitoring group is to meet again today to discuss the latest complaint from Lebanon following the death of the man in Frun yesterday.



## Official condolences

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu expresses condolences yesterday to visiting Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqing over the loss of leader Deng Xiaoping, whom Netanyahu praised as one of the "great leaders of the 20th century." The two also discussed how to improve trade between the two countries. Foreign Minister David Levy is to visit China next week, but won't attend Deng's funeral, which is closed to foreigners. President Ezer Weizman, who was to visit China next month, has decided to postpone his trip due to the period of national mourning and is expected to go to in June instead. *(Brian Riedel)*

## Gold: US not pushing for full withdrawal

By STEVE RODAN

The US no longer advocates an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders, a key government adviser who returned from talks with the Clinton administration said last night.

Dore Gold, senior policy adviser to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, said the US conception of the final status of the territories has undergone changes since the mid-1980s. Then, US President Ronald Reagan issued a plan that called for full Israeli withdrawal from the territories captured in the 1967 war, a position identical to the one expressed by US Secretary of State William Rogers in 1969.

"There is a belief in the Israeli public that in [the late US President Richard] Nixon's safe there is the Rogers plan and that every president signs on to it," Gold said, in an address to the American Jewish Committee.

Gold, who acknowledged the huge gap between Israeli and Palestinian positions on final status, said the US is no longer insistent on a withdrawal to the 1967 borders. He said this reflects such changes as low oil prices and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"There have been many developments in the US conception on final status," Gold said. "The US prefers not to express a position. It will agree to whatever agreement is reached by the two parties."

Gold said the US accepts the Netanyahu government's insistence that the Arabs and Palestinians demonstrate reciprocity in their relations with Israel. He said the US is committed to expanding Israel's limited relations with the Gulf states and North Africa as well as forging new ties with other Middle Eastern countries.

## Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the king of spades, the king of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the 10 of clubs.

In last night's weekly Paysis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 455396 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 317801 was good for a new car.

Tickets 092797, 102251, 106003, 189572, 561907, 444664, 402472, and 835081 were all good for NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 12757, 76734, 71561, 35299, 31029, 68103, 85224, 86797, 25798, 63122, 65546, 13556, 94018, 23278, 23600, 54313, 78529, 19254, and 23857 were all good for NIS 1,000. Those holding tickets ending in 566, 918, 471 and 789 won NIS 100; in 55, 94, 49 or 10 NIS 30; in 47 or 37 NIS 20; and in 0 or 5 NIS 10.

## CORRECTION

In yesterday's story "Peace Now protests widening of bypass road," the last paragraph should have read: "Lerner said that plans include widening the road and repaving it, but stressed that there were no plans to build a new road or a tunnel."

## Palestinian rights group slams Israel, PA

By JON IMMANUEL

The Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment issued a two-part annual report yesterday on human rights violations by Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The part on Israel said there was an upsurge in settler violence and land confiscation since Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was elected in May, while violations by the PA were often aggravated by the presence of 12 security agencies apparently acting with no clear mandate or controls.

Although Palestinian civil courts have ordered prisoners released, the executive authority has ignored them, the report said. Palestinian police have opened fire indiscriminately and under circumstances where shooting was not legal, often hitting and killing passersby.

The human rights situation appeared to improve in January last year but deteriorated following the suicide bombings in late

February and early March. The closure, which was clamped down after the attacks, prevented students, doctors, and pregnant women from studying, working or getting treatment.

The second half of the year saw an increase in confiscation of land by the government and in warnings that houses in area C deemed illegal would be demolished. Settlers also became more aggressive, the report said, citing attacks against Palestinian farmers, against property near Kiryat Arba in November and attacks attributed to settlers, such as a drive-by shooting which killed Ali Sahout, a villager from Sinjil, north of Ramallah.

"The Israeli army position shows a clear bias toward settlers," the report said.

The PA, however, fared little better. Khader Shakerat, director of the group, said that in a 10-minute conversation he had with Justice Minister Freih Abu Meidein he felt that he might as well "have been talking about violations in Nicaragua."

## WEIZMAN

Continued from Page 1

Israeli Embassy is not large enough to hold Weizman's return affair on Thursday, Jacob Rothschild has generously stepped in to lend Israel the grand and glittering Spencer House for the function, which is to be attended by the leading lights of British society and Anglo-Jewry.

Lord Rothschild bought Spencer House, a handsome neoclassical palace in St. James's overlooking Green Park, from the Spencer family in 1985, and lavishly restored it, at a cost of £16 million, to its original 18th century glory, using lots of gilt and marble.

Rothschild himself has fallen out with some other members of the family, leaving its bank, N.M. Rothschild, to become the first

Rothschild to make a fortune of his own since the family came out of the ghetto 200 years ago. However, he has continued the Rothschild tradition of helping finance Israeli causes, including the construction of Jerusalem's Supreme Court building.

British royal-watchers discounted the possibility that next week's dinner would turn out to be a difficult reminder for the queen of her son's failed marriage. "Whatever trouble there may still be between in-laws is not going to obscure next week's splendid royal occasion," said one.

Meanwhile, Prince Charles, whose mother is head of the Church of England, has in recent weeks been criticized in Britain for becoming overly pro-Islamic. Among other things he has called on British schools to employ more Muslim teachers in order to instill "Islamic values" in British children.

## LEVY

Continued from Page 1

expected to go to a political appointment.

Other appointments named yesterday were: David Matnai, head of the Foreign Ministry's south-east Asian department, as ambassador to Thailand; Shlomo Morgan, who served as deputy

chief of mission in Stockholm, as ambassador to Senegal; Yoram Sheni, who headed one of the ministry's economic divisions, as consul-general in San Francisco; Noah Gandler, who heads the training department, as ambassador to Uzbekistan; and Avi Binyamin, who heads the inter-faith department, was named deputy chief of mission in Moscow.

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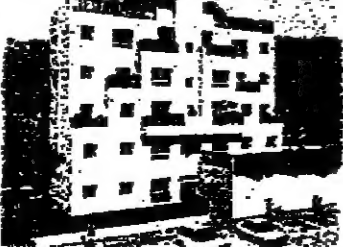
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## ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the postponement of the visit by the Mayor of Rome, the reception in his honour that was scheduled for Sunday, 23 February 1997, in the Jerusalem Municipality Council Hall at Kikar Safa, has been cancelled.

Information & Public Relations Department

## CRUISES IN RUSSIAN RIVERS

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Ms. Hava Morris, The Israel Interfaith Association  
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The discussion will be held in Hebrew and English with simultaneous translation.



# US Reform leader looks to CIS immigrants

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Immigrants from the former Soviet Union should be natural allies of the Reform and Conservative movements in the dispute over conversions here, but it hasn't happened and Rabbi Eric Yoffie, head of the Reform movement in the US, can't figure out why.

Yoffie, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), who is here for the Jewish Agency Executive meeting has been meeting with MKs in an effort to avert passage of the proposed conversion law, which would bar official recognition for non-Orthodox conversions performed in Israel.

But he admitted chances of stopping passage of the bill are slim, and one reason is that the Yisrael Ba'aliya Party supports the legislation.

Yoffie said he realized the party is motivated by coalition considerations, but he cannot understand how it can remain apathetic to the plight of over 100,000 immigrants who are not recognized as Jews.

Many would gladly convert if the rabbinical courts would accept them, Yoffie said.

"It's a great puzzle to us. The same bill that denies Reform and Conservative conversions also prolongs the situation where people who consider themselves

Jewish can't convert," Yoffie said.

In fact, a group of immigrants who have undergone Reform and Conservative conversion are due to demonstrate on Sunday, outside the office of Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky, the head of Yisrael Ba'aliya, while the latter meets with American Jewish leaders, including the heads of the Conservative and Reform movements.

Yoffie said the Russian immigrants had been conditioned by the Soviet system to manage in unsavory situations, but he believes that this will soon change to anger and political activism, just as it had among the Ethiopian immigrants.

Sharansky's spokesman, Roman Polansky, said yesterday that the minister sees a great importance in deepening the connection with Diaspora Jewry and between Jews of differing religious backgrounds. However, Polansky also noted Sharansky has gone on record as opposing recognition of Reform and Conservative conversions performed here, while continuing to recognize those performed abroad.

Meanwhile, Yoffie said that some US Jews are diverting their UJA contributions to the Reform Movement. He himself, he said, had written letters at the request of several Jewish federations affirming the importance of giving to the general campaign.



Focus on the CIS

United Israel Appeal chairman Shoshana Cardini (right), speaks at a Jewish Agency Board of Governors subcommittee meeting yesterday on CIS countries, as Alla Levy, director of the Jewish Agency's Former Soviet Union Division, looks on.

# Banks close early today

By GILIT LIPKIS BECK

The banks will be open no more than half a day today, as bank workers strike in their struggle to shift from a six- to a five-day workweek.

The National Labor Court yesterday issued a temporary injunction allowing the country's 40,000 workers to strike every day of the week, as long as the strike is limited to no more than half the regular daily banking hours.

The court rejected the Banks Association and Consumer Council petition against the strike. The petition was filed following the decision by the workers' committees and the Histadrut to call a complete strike at the banks every Friday. The majority of banks were closed last Friday.

Bank managements and workers' committees were instructed to engage in intense negotiations in an attempt to reach an agreement

on the move to a five-day workweek. The managements and committees are required to submit progress reports to the court next Thursday. The court instructed border-crossing branches to remain open today.

Most of the banks' works committees said they intend to strike all day despite the court injunction and the Histadrut's call to respect it. At press time it was unclear how many hours each bank will strike.

"Bank Discount workers will not work Fridays until management agrees to a transition to a five-day workweek," said Riki Bechar, head of Bank Discount's workers committee.

Bank spokesmen said automatic teller machines and bank telephone services will be operating all day. A First International Bank spokesperson said its telephone banking service, which is usually closed on Friday, will be operating.

## Rabbinate official linked to conversion scandal takes leave

By HAIM SHAPIRO and ILM

A senior administrator at the Chief Rabbinate is going on leave for two weeks because her name has been linked to the alleged payment of bribes to speed up conversions.

In a letter to Chief Rabbinate Director-General Gedalia Schreiber, Yehudit Herstein said that she felt called upon to take leave, although she insists

ed that she had committed no crime. She said she feared being used as a tool with which to attack the Chief Rabbinate.

Meanwhile the two rabbis suspected of taking bribes to speed up conversions, Michael Dushinsky and Binyamin Bar-Zohar, have had their remand extended until Monday, following a police appeal against an earlier decision to release them on bail.

## Beit She'an Engines factory reopens Sunday

By DAVID FUDGE

The Beit She'an Engines factory - closed for nearly three weeks due to insufficient orders - is to reopen on Sunday following an agreement between management and the Defense Ministry.

The accord means that the jobs of the 35 workers at the plant in the unemployment-stricken development town will be safeguarded for at least the next year.

The agreement was reached after a meeting yesterday between representatives of the Histadrut, the workers and management with Defense Ministry director-general Maj.-Gen. (res) Ilan Biran at the ministry's offices in Tel Aviv.

The plant, which overhauls IDF engines, was shut down nearly three weeks ago due to a shortage of work and dismissal notices were later sent to the workers.

Foreign Minister David Levy, himself a Beit She'an resident, intervened following demonstrations by the workers outside the factory and the Knesset in Jerusalem.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai pledged to increase the number of orders placed with the plant, which relies entirely on work from the IDF, to enable the factory to stay in business.

Management, however, said the proposed number of orders was insufficient to keep the business running and all the workers employed for a full year.

Beit She'an Histadrut branch chairman Pini Kabalo said it had been agreed in the talks yesterday that the ministry would further increase the number of orders placed with the company this year to enable it to continue operating.

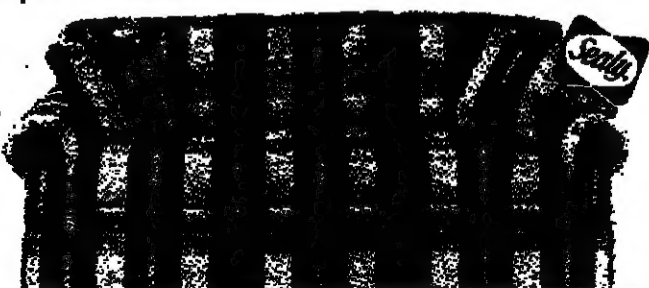
"We are all very pleased, especially the workers. This is what we had been fighting for - their right to be able to earn their livelihoods and the right of the factory to continue," said Kabalo.

"It was made clear, however, that this agreement would apply to this year only and that management and the workers would, during the course of the year, have to begin to start to break into the civilian market," said Kabalo.

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## Har Homa

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is learning that, in his job, there is no respite for the weary. No sooner is the grueling ordeal of the Hebron deal behind him than a new issue crops up, equally ridden with the threat of political, diplomatic, and physical unrest. The issue that brought him to power has now come back to haunt him: The charge of dividing Jerusalem.

Who would have dreamt that the candidate whose election slogan last spring was "Peres will divide Jerusalem" would now be accused of the same heresy by much of his own coalition? Approval of a long-simmering plan to build on Har Homa, a barren hilltop just inside Jerusalem's southern municipal boundary, has become the litmus test of whether Netanyahu will assert Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem.

Netanyahu seems to be in a no-win situation. If he allows building to commence, Palestinian leaders are threatening it will be taken as a "declaration of war," violence could ensue, and his post-Hebron honeymoon could be nixed before he has had the chance to set down his bags. If he stops the bulldozers from rolling forward, his coalition could fall apart, and he would be seen as unable to impose his will in Jerusalem, the very issue on which he enjoys the support of a broader Israeli consensus than any other in the peace process.

The threat of the National Religious Party and other individual MKs to bring down the coalition over Har Homa seems more real than the similar threats over the Hebron agreement, but in the end they will prove equally as empty.

Netanyahu's increasingly feisty rightist opposition knows that the alternatives to the current government are a unity government with Shimon Peres or new elections, neither of which is likely to shift the government in their direction.

But even if coalition politics do not force him to do so, Netanyahu probably does not see the option of doing nothing on Har Homa as a realistic one. The Oslo process has already compelled Netanyahu to perform seemingly impossible ideological contortions—curtailing building in Jerusalem would mean that what was left of the Likud ideology had evaporated into thin air. Freezing development in Jerusalem would be worse than breaking a campaign promise, it would contradict an expectation so understood that it did not even have to be promised.

Given this situation, it is not surprising that Netanyahu committed to his allies before this week's Knesset debate on Jerusalem that the government would approve building on Har Homa, and that the timing would be decided next week. Hanging over the decision will be the threat of a replay of the violence that followed the opening of a new exit from the Western Wall Tunnel last September. There are reasons to believe, however, as General Security Service head Ami Ayalon told a Knesset committee, that there will be no repetition of the "explosion" that occurred at that time.

While the opening of the tunnel exit was the match that lit the conflagration, and left 70 dead in September, the real reasons behind it were the sense that Israeli territorial concessions had ended, and the crushing effect which the closure had on the Palestinian economy. Since then, both these factors have changed dramatically, leading to Ayalon's assessment that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat "no longer has an interest" in inciting a violent upheaval,

though popular pressure could change Arafat's position.

Another significant factor mitigating against a repeat of September is the narrowing of Arafat's margin of deniability with respect to future violence. It would be considerably more difficult for Arafat to credibly deny responsibility for violence if he once again calls for "jihad," and if Palestinian police once again do not lift a finger to prevent confrontation between angry mobs and Israeli soldiers. This time, it will not be enough for Arafat to be one slim step removed from the rioting; he will have to be seen as working actively to prevent violence if he is to avoid responsibility for it.

Even if the question of violence is taken off the table, the diplomatic consequences of going forward with the Har Homa project in the teeth of blistering Palestinian opposition are formidable. The United States may well understand Israel's position, and might even veto the inevitable lopsided UN resolution condemning Israel. But the American push for positive gestures from the Arab world in the wake of the Hebron accord would suddenly be facing an uphill battle.

In effect, the diplomatic cost to Netanyahu of proceeding with Har Homa could be the loss of most of the international credibility he painfully won through the Hebron agreement. There is, however, a third option between doing nothing and building unilaterally—one that neither side can advocate but is in the interests of both.

The third possibility is a tacit deal between Netanyahu and Arafat.

Netanyahu could transform Israel's first redeployment, scheduled for March 7, from a symbolic two percent of Judea and Samaria, to a more substantial percentage. In exchange, Arafat would remain opposed to the building project, but would commit to working publicly and behind the scenes to prevent a violent response once the bulldozers start moving.

Netanyahu has implicitly introduced the concept of a deal with the suggestion that part of Har Homa could be slated for Palestinian housing.

There is a difference, however, between a "deal" that is a unilateral juxtaposition of "something for you, something for me" and a negotiated agreement. The Western Wall Tunnel case is actually an example of a failed juxtaposition-type "deal." Israel thought that granting Moslem authorities permission to open a new mosque on the Temple Mount would diffuse Palestinian opposition to the opening of the new tunnel exit. It did not.

Netanyahu had better learn from that mistake, and this time reach an agreement, at least indirectly, with Arafat. As usual, the United States is the key. The US could broker such an agreement in conjunction with Arafat's upcoming visit to Washington, which happens to be about the same time as Israel's first redeployment.

If such a deal becomes public, Netanyahu is sure to be criticized for "negotiating over Jerusalem" with Arafat. That bridge has been crossed by Oslo itself, which explicitly includes Jerusalem as a negotiating issue.

Arafat, too, might be criticized for "giving up" part of what he is seeking as a future capital. But Arafat will gain directly from whatever Israel concedes in the deal, and indirectly through the confirmation that he does in fact have influence over Israel's actions in its eternal capital.

Like most messy solutions, the main virtue here is being better than the alternatives.

## Failure to see the whole picture

Israelis had barely come out of national mourning following the bitter deaths of 73 soldiers when the Ivry Commission's interim report on the helicopter tragedy gave us something else to chew our fingernails over—the factors that led to the crash, and which, if any, army personnel might be held responsible.

Somehow we don't seem to be focusing our attention in the right place.

Certainly, whatever it was that made the two IDF helicopters collide was the immediate cause of the accident; but it wasn't the whole, fundamental cause.

Human error on the part of one of the pilots? This is what the commission will likely conclude, but again, it doesn't go to the source of the problem.

No commission of inquiry is going to investigate the conceptual failure that caused the specific error that led to the crash, a failure rooted in a faulty concept.

The IDF has ceded control of the ground in southern Lebanon, leaving its outposts there under Hizbullah siege. In this situation, the IDF has been left with no choice but to use helicopters to get its soldiers to and from the field.

If the government wants to know what's really going on in Lebanon, it should appoint a completely different kind of commission.

Then it might get answers to questions like: How has a quantitatively and qualitatively great army like the IDF allowed a few hundred guerrilla fighters to harass it and maneuver it into a position of inferiority?

And: How is it that, despite the IDF's possessing the most advanced military equipment in the world, Hizbullah—lacking air-

side by side with the purely "technical" one, and given it a mandate to investigate the whole range of factors that have brought us to our current sorry state.

FOR those prepared to see it, the issue thrown sharply into focus by the horror in the air is something quite other than the condition of those ill-fated helicopters, their

### Quite another sort of inquiry should have been launched after the helicopter crash

craft, armored forces or any sophisticated material to compare with ours—has managed to retain the initiative, setting ambushes, killing and wounding our soldiers, and making their lives a general hell?

And: Why have we given up on the offensive, which is the only thing that could put Hizbullah back on the defensive and get it off our backs?

Had the government wanted answers to these questions and many others, and wanted them to be courageous and honest, it would have appointed another commission of inquiry to work

on the operation of the aerial control systems.

A commission set up to achieve real results would have been asked to decide whether, under the operational restrictions the army has imposed on itself or has had imposed on it, the "security zone concept" is still propping up national security, or whether our loss of deterrent ability in Lebanon means that our staying there is actually working against our interests.

A commission with the right mandate would recommend the steps that would lead us to regain control of the territory. This would

restore our deterrent ability, and it wouldn't be only Hizbullah who felt it.

Once we took back the initiative, it would be the enemy that found itself under siege. This would have its consequent deterrent effect on countries (Iran and Syria) far larger and more powerful than the little band that has shown up the IDF—and with it the whole state—as deficient in either ability or purpose.

As far as one can judge following the period of national mourning, the helicopter crash has not done irreparable harm to our spirit or determination. In fact, reactions from both soldiers and IDF officers point to the contrary.

This, surely, ought to facilitate an inquiry into the broader reason why IDF helicopters were and are compelled to take off with their soft and so-vulnerable underbellies full of the most precious cargo the country possesses.

So far, no commission has been appointed to inquire into how Hizbullah has put us into a state of siege we need air transport to bypass. Alas, I fear none will be.

The writer is former chairman of the Council of Jewish Residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza and president of the board of Nekuda.

## This new pragmatism is welcome

Ever since Oslo 2 was signed in autumn 1995, Israelis have been subjected to a multitude of proposals regarding the final territorial disposition between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Politicians, academics, and interested political groups have treated us to a display of cartographic ingenuity, drawing lines in a multitude of shapes and positions, dissecting the West Bank into various Jewish and Arab territorial entities.

The name of the game in all these proposals has been pretty much the same. Each has tried to include the largest possible number of Israeli settlements as possible—a logic that isn't hard to understand.

Within Israel, a growing proportion of the public—from the left and right wing—has slowly come to realize that Israel will not be able, even if it wants, to evacuate 140,000 settlers without giving rise to substantial civil unrest and internal violence. This has also been intrinsically recognized in the cross-party agreement reached between Yossi Beilin and Michael Eitan.

Recent press advertisements supporting this proposal have categorically stated the desire to leave all settlements in situ. Such a position is acceptable to the Likud MKs because of their ideological stance in favor of settlements; at the same time it constitutes a major compromise on the part of the Labor MKs.

But even the latter recognize the difficulty involved in any attempts to remove or evacuate these settlements.

DAVID NEWMAN

While this explains the growing political consensus around retaining the maximum number of settlements, there is, equally, a growing awareness on the part of Israeli policy makers that this should include as small a part of the West Bank land area as possible.

For the Palestinians, any attempt

amount of territory available to a Palestinian entity/state, the proposal suggests compensating the PA with an equal area in less sensitive regions, ones not populated by Israeli settlements.

The idea of territorial reciprocity—namely that the Palestinians be compensated for any territorial attrition within the West Bank—is

### Enter territorial reciprocity, a novel idea in the ongoing political discourse

to retain settlements as part of Israel means less territory on which to establish their state.

Hard as it may be for many Israelis to appreciate, the Palestinians' demand for a state encompassing the whole of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is, for them, a major concession.

By making such a demand they are publicly acknowledging that they no longer see the whole of pre-state Palestine as their future political homeland.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip make up approximately 23 percent of the whole of Palestine west of the River Jordan. Any further attrition within that limited territory will be strongly contested by the Palestinian negotiators in the next round.

Among all the proposals drawn up during the past year, the Beilin-Abu Mazen document for the first time suggests a solution to this problem.

Rather than simply reducing the

totally new to the ongoing political discourse. Like many other such concepts, not least the notion of a Palestinian state, it will meet much opposition to begin with; but it will gradually become part of the accepted give-and-take between the two sides.

The Beilin-Abu Mazen document is particularly innovative in proposing the expansion of the Gaza land area, rather than the West Bank itself, as part of this territorial reciprocity. This solves two major problems—one Israeli, one Palestinian.

From the Israeli perspective, any change of the "Green Line" boundary could only come at the expense of the West Bank, not within Israel itself.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to delineate any area along the course of the Green Line which could be redrawn in favor of the PA. This would be much easier to accomplish in and around the Gaza Strip, where there is more land available for this form of car-

topographic innovation.

From the Palestinian perspective, the Gaza Strip is one of the most densely-populated micro-regions anywhere on the earth's surface. International groups have prepared a number of documents pointing to the need to expand the Gaza land base if it is to absorb the existing population economically. There has even been talk about expanding the Gaza area to include small pieces of adjoining territory both within Israel and Egypt.

WHAT is clear is that a new pragmatism is emerging. Each side recognizes that the "other" has constraints which will prevent it implementing policies that meet severe opposition at home.

An Israeli decision to evacuate too many settlements, or Palestinian acquiescence in accepting territory amounting to less than the West Bank and Gaza Strip, are equally problematic for an Israeli, or Palestinian government respectively.

New ideas and concepts are necessary if a final territorial agreement is to be achieved. There is nothing holy about the artificially-drawn boundaries of 1948 making them any more, or less, valid than any other agreed line of separation between an Israeli and Palestinian entity.

It remains for both sides to exercise their respective cartographic imaginations and draw up a final line of demarcation between them.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### "HOLOCAUST COOKBOOK"

Sir, —Efraim Zuroff is a friend of long standing whose scholarship on the Holocaust I respect, and whose passionate commitment to bringing the perpetrators to justice I revere. He will remain a personal friend even though I beg to differ with his judgment (your story, "Outrage over 'Holocaust cookbook,'" February 14).

*In Memory's Kitchen* is a document which tells us how women spent their time and how they confronted and wrestled with hunger by recalling the past—a time when they had homes and kitchens. To call the publication of the so-called cookbook "sick" is to defame those who compiled it in the camps. That is disrespectful.

Instead, I believe that the recipes are personal documents of those who endured the abyss. As historians, we must engage documents in a variety of forms—albeit unusual forms.

As to the publishing success of the work, let me set the record straight. I received no funds for writing the foreword. I receive no royalties. I wrote the foreword because I believe that people should know about Theresienstadt and about how some women struggled with their hunger. I still do.

MICHAEL BERENBAUM  
Los Angeles.

### EX-PRISONERS OF ZION

Sir, —All who have worked for Soviet Jewry in the last 30 years must be grateful to you for publishing Batseva Tsur's article on the hardships now being endured by the leaders of the Soviet Jewish Campaign.

Ex-Prisoners of Zion and ex-long-term refuseniks paved the way for the 750,000 immigrants who now bring prosperity to Israel. All of us, in Israel and in

the Diaspora, owe them a debt of gratitude and we should all feel shame that they are now being, literally, thrown on the dust heap.

We hope that the heroes and heroines we were so proud of in past years will not end their days in penury.

MARGARET RIGAL  
RITA EKER  
35 Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry  
London.

### THEOSOPHY

Sir, —I was intrigued by the article of January 31 by Judy Siegel about Thomas Edison's anti-semitism finally coming to light. No doubt, Edison found much to support his views when in 1878 he joined the Theosophical Society (then a secret society).

The Theosophical Society, which is today represented in scores of countries, openly promotes its teachings of "a new world order and a universal world religion based on tolerance and brotherhood." But in spite of its genteel approach, from its beginning theosophy made no

effort to hide its hostility toward the monotheistic faiths, and particularly toward the Jewish people. The founder of theosophy, Helena P. Blavatsky, systematized the doctrine of the "pure Aryan" race, and the "blood taint" which resided in the Jewish race.

If this sounds eerily familiar, should it surprise anyone to learn that theosophy gained another prominent devotee some 50 years after Edison—Adolf Hitler, who spread theosophy throughout Germany in the 1930s?

HANNAH WEISS  
Ariel.

### EXCELLENT EDITORIAL

Sir, —Your editorial of February 14, "Corruption and conversion," calling for responsible compromise by all three streams of Judaism, is excellent. Reading it, I

recalled the wise saying: "Where there is a rabbinical will, there is a halachic way."

HARRIS D. GULKO  
Jerusalem.

## POSTSCRIPTS

TERRY LEWIS loves his mummy, but wants to sell her just the same.

The US Customs Service said Lewis, owner of Nonesuch House of Antiques, in Wiscasset, Maine, is free to sell the 3,000-year-old mummy, though the Egyptian government could still claim it.

"I'd really like to get around \$35,000 so I'm not going to sell her right away," Lewis said. "I'm still very fond of her. After all, she has done a lot for my business."

The remains have been on display in a glass case at the front of the antique shop since 1992, when a friend of Lewis's bought the mummy at auction.

Customs officials had ordered Lewis not to sell the mummy until the Egyptian government had a chance to see if it had any cultural value, but the order expired without word from the Egyptians.

THE CAUSE of fire at Matthew Gould's home is listed as "dog playing with matches."

Gould, 22, told Kelso, Washington, firefighters that his German shepherd had gnawed into a cardboard box containing matches.

"This is a first," said fire Capt. Mark Maker. "The cause of the fire officially is a dog playing with matches. Somehow she chewed just right and didn't slobber enough."

Gould was relieved when firefighters believed his story. "I was afraid those guys thought I was playing with matches or something," he said.

The dog may have chewed her way right out of a home.

"We've been talking about getting rid of her for a while now," Gould said, "and this kind of put it over the top."

MOMENTS BEFORE Iraqi soldiers captured Guy Hunter during the Gulf war, the US Marine buried his wallet in the Kuwaiti desert so his family would not be targeted by terrorists.

Six years later, the mud-soaked billfold appeared in Hunter's mailbox with all its contents—credit cards, his military ID, family photos and \$47 in cash. A laborer had found it and sent it to the Marines, who forwarded it to Hunter, now 52 and retired.

"It was so strange," said the former prisoner of war from Jacksonville, North Carolina. "It seemed like a voice from the past suddenly spoke to me."

Hunter buried the wallet because "I was afraid they might use it for terrorist purposes against my family back in the States. We were captured within five minutes. There was nowhere to run."

ARCHAEOLOGISTS working with a huge urban highway project in Boston are on the lookout for wooden chests pitched into the harbor during the Boston Tea Party.

Finding anything in the excavation for the city's Central Artery Project is a long shot, said Robert Hascenstab, one of the project's archeologists.

But it's the best chance yet to find a physical link to the Tea Party, when rebels cosigned as Mohawk Indians boarded docked cargo ships and dumped 342 chests of tea into the harbor on December 16, 1773, to protest British taxes.

"I'm going to keep a serious eye out," Hascenstab said. "It would be great."

The excavation is expected to reach the area of old Griffin's Wharf, recorded as the site of the demonstration, which lies under tons of landfill.



## Over and above building at Har Homa

The message emitted by the buildup of tension surrounding the Har Homa issue is that the threat of Palestinian violence will be with us for the duration of final-stage talks with the Palestinian Authority.

In fact, there is a good chance of it remaining with us even longer, given the likelihood that those talks will result in very inconclusive arrangements indeed.

Of equal, perhaps greater, importance than the construction at Har Homa itself is Israel's urgent need to demonstrate that it can confront — and deal — with this Palestinian tactic of resort to violence whenever we don't give in to Palestinian demands.

Threatening violence parallel to continuing peace talks is a weapon characteristically employed by the weaker side in negotiations. That, however, is no reason for Israel to apologize for being the party that holds the stronger cards, nor any reason to refuse to play them.

One argument adduced against going ahead with the construction at Har Homa is that it will invite a reprise of the Palestinian riots that erupted following the opening of the exit to the Hasmonian tunnel in the Old City last September, riots in which 15 Israeli soldiers and over 60 Palestinians were killed.

The mistake we made back then wasn't the opening of the tunnel — Israel had tried to coordinate that move with the Wafu and the Palestinian Authority as a quid pro quo for acquiescing in their opening of the new Moslem underground prayer halls next to the Al-Aksa mosque.

The mistake was allowing ourselves to be surprised by the well-orchestrated Palestinian violence, unleashed at Yasser Arafat's behest.

Our response this time must include not only better preparation in the event of a repeat provoca-

YOSEF GOELL

tion of violence, but effective measures to prevent violence erupting in the first place.

One of the clearest and best ways to do that would be, for example, informing Arafat and every PA policeman and secret police operative that Israel had given trained sharpshooter units shoot-to-kill orders as regards all armed PA police the moment

**Israel must confront the Palestinians' tactic of 'violence to order'**

Palestinian violence broke out. We can rest assured that Palestinian interest in continuing the final-stage talks is so great that not even this would endanger continuation of the process.

ALTHOUGH there is no wall-to-wall consensus in Israel on anything, one of the major reasons for making Har Homa a test case is that there is such a broad measure of internal agreement on it.

During the Six Day War, when Jerusalem was still divided, the Jewish half of the city was shelled by Jordanian artillery from the surrounding mountaintops. In the decade following, it was decided to annex the mountaintops to the newly-united Israeli Jerusalem and build a ring of neighborhoods on them.

These became Gilo, East Talpiot, the renewed Hebrew University and Hadassah Hospital complexes on Mt. Scopus, French Hill, Givat Hamivtar, Ramat Eshkol and Ramot. More recently

the haredi neighborhood of Shuafat Ridge was added to close the ring in the north.

Those hilltop neighborhoods, where today over a third of the Jewish population of Jerusalem lives, were an expression of the strategic concepts espoused by the Golda Meir and Rabin Labor governments of the 1970s.

The fact that the ring was not closed at Har Homa in the south only reflects the fecklessness of the Likud governments of 1977-92, and of the retreat of the Labor Party under Shimon Peres from its earlier strategic concepts.

When Yitzhak Rabin replaced Shimon Peres as Labor leader in 1992, he pushed the Har Homa project vigorously.

All of this is not to deny the very real existence of over 160,000 Palestinians in Jerusalem, a demographic reality that will require painful compromises in the final-stage talks.

The building of Har Homa is essential to ensure that the compromises eventually worked out do not include too great a contiguity between the Palestinian neighborhoods within Jerusalem and the PA areas beyond the outer ring.

But the same reasoning that justifies building Har Homa, closing the ring to the south, provides strong reasons to oppose the hasty plans to build in the Ras al-Amud quarter.

Such a penetration into the heart of the Palestinian neighborhoods to the east of the walled Old City would be nothing more than an unnecessary provocation.

Complex trade-offs will lie at the heart of the final-stage talks on Jerusalem. It is essential that the threat of having to conduct those talks under the shadow of renewed Palestinian violence be neutralized.

The writer comments on current affairs.



## Way of pleasantness, path to peace

The downside of the ingathering of the exiles is that we've learned how mean we can be to each other when we don't have the goyim around to keep us in line. And it's not a pretty sight.

This week we had MK Moshe Shalut taking to the airwaves to name his arch-rival Ya'acov Turner as the senior police officer reported to have sexually harassed a teenager. The story was denied by the girl in question this week, which is probably why it was never originally printed.

But the facts didn't stop Shalut from doing his "civic duty" and dragging Turner and his family through the mud.

It's that kind of enmity that enabled hate-filled charges of haredi draft-dodging to surface in the wake of the recent helicopter crash.

Even as the country, overcome by grief, was feeling united for the first time in many years, there were those who couldn't resist the temptation to bash the haredim ("The 73 fallen soldiers do not represent a cross-section of the country... there are those who don't serve.")

While their timing was reprehensible, the issue itself is valid. Unresolved, it threatens to undermine any prospect of genuine respect or understanding between religious and secular.

A report released by the Defense Ministry this week says that 60 percent of haredim who receive a "deferral" in order to study Torah end up never doing any service at all.

Why, indeed, should they be exempt from any form of national service?

Interestingly, a survey done at the end of last year showed that the secular public isn't as upset about haredi evasion of military duty as it used to be.

Perhaps the peace process, the general decline in status of the army, and growing public acceptance of secular youths who opt out of combat duty had dampened criticism of the haredim on this score.

But, as we saw this month, the issue is always there, waiting to be used as ammunition in the continuing religious-secular battle.

JOEL REBIBO

allow certain religious concerns to be addressed.

ONE option would be to have these youngsters enroll in haredim-run programs that cater to the general public.

Three examples come to mind: Zichron Menachem, which supplies a wide range of services to children with cancer and their families; Shalva, which provides after-school, weekend, and "home care" for severely handicapped children; and Rabbi Fier's medical placement program, which matches seriously ill patients with

**Some Torah students do support the state with their learning — but national service for haredim would benefit all**

found that the vast majority of students there are extremely serious. I see young people studying from 9 a.m. till 7:30 p.m., with a half-hour break for lunch, and then returning at 8:30 p.m. for several more hours' study.

They aren't preparing for tests or the promise of high-paying careers; they've chosen a very demanding path because they feel this is their duty, and this is how they can best serve the country.

In an age when people can't read more than 200 words at a time — and that only if accompanied by impressive graphics — it is refreshing to see people grappling with complex issues with such intensity.

Yeshiva students will struggle to understand a few lines of Talmud even if it means knocking their heads against a wall for weeks. And they have the discipline to review the material again and again, which enables them to apply the logic and legal principles they have learned to other situations.

But I have no doubt that many of these impressive young people would benefit from participating in a program of national service.

For its part, the army would have to be flexible enough to

allow certain religious concerns to be addressed.

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years compared to three for those who do straight army), some will dismiss this program as a cop-out.

There will always be the Moshe Shalut out there with blind hatred for one group or individual, or another. But this kind of national service could go a long way toward changing the public image of haredim. And it would reduce the increasing number of haredim who defer or evade national duty altogether.

It would also help haredi students who aren't "scholarship" by giving them a chance to do national service instead of having to sit in a yeshiva where they aren't learning productively.

Currently, many hang on because their only alternative is the army — an unacceptable option because of its perceived ultra-secular climate.

At first, many haredim would buck such an innovation. But in addition to the other benefits, yeshiva students themselves would gain from such service. A serious workout with a handicapped child does wonders for one's soul, and character.

Finally, though, even a solution along these lines must give yeshiva heads the option of "protecting" some of their most promising students.

There really are those who support the world — including the state — with their Torah learning, and for those select few the place from where they can best serve the nation is the study hall.

To be sure, very basic and serious differences in world view divide religious from secular.

But if we are prepared to give up vital water resources and strategic territory for the sake of peace with the Palestinians, we can surely at least try for better understanding and respect within our society, for peace among ourselves.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

## Geula Amir's golden opportunity

Just over a year ago I sat in Leah Rabin's living room, interviewing her for *Vogue* magazine following the assassination of her husband.

I asked her how she felt when Yigal Amir's mother made a televised plea to the Rabin family asking for forgiveness.

"I didn't watch it," retorted Rabin. I'm not interested in [Yigal Amir] or his family... the way the media gives his family so much attention is appalling. It shouldn't be allowed. We are doing everything to fight it."

Well, you can put your boxing gloves back on, Leah, because Geula Amir has just gone prime time, American-style.

Gone are the tears, the apologies, the soul-searching. Long forgotten is her "Today, [Yigal] is not mine" speech.

Fifteen months after the assassination, the nursery school teacher and religious mother of eight has undergone a metamorphosis. She's on the attack.

This mother of two imprisoned sons — one doing time for murdering the nation's prime minister, the other for supplying the bullets that killed him — is searching for the "truth" about the Rabin assassination. And she's taking her cause on the road.

A bizarre relationship has been forged with none other than *George*, the sexy pop-political magazine founded by John F. Kennedy Jr., son of, who this week released a 10,000-word essay by Amir. (For the record, the hefty piece was "produced with the assistance of her lawyers.")

Not only has "John John" indulged Geula with this 13-page opus entitled "A Mother's Defense," his magazine is also sponsoring a two-week Geula Amir speaking tour.

Of course, Geula claims there is no money involved. (There never is.) She just wants to tell her side of the story.

I try to picture the scene. Geula descends from the plane at JFK Airport. Standing tall and dashing at the end of the runway is John Jr., waving a white placard reading "Amir."

She smooths the wrinkles from her dress, then flashes the famous Amir smile. They hop into his stretch limo and take off for a media whirlwind tour, assuring

LISA FRYDMAN

record sales for *George*, and granting Amir and her family's plight a legitimacy it does not deserve.

It's quite mind-boggling. But there is something even more incredible, and that is JFK Jr. himself.

I wonder how he would have felt a year after his father's assassination, hearing that Lee Harvey Oswald's mother had been granted a prestigious soapbox from which to explain to the world how her son, the scapegoat, "had been molded into the perfect assassin."

IN HER personally researched investigative report, Amir enlight-

**Surely there's a fine line between what sells and what smells?**

ens the discriminating reader on the Oslo accords and how they divided the nation, on the General Security Service scandals, and on full guy Carmi Gillon.

She expends vast energy on that "dybbuk" Avishai Raviv and the conspiracy theory, and is not reticent regarding the hardly democratic policies of the State of Israel.

A few highlights: "[The Israeli authorities] are doing everything so that the public will hate him... They're trying to break Yigal by breaking us. But they won't succeed. We won't break."

"I know my son did not kill Rabin alone. Things are beginning to come out. The day will come when people will come up to me on the street and say, 'You

must be proud to be Yigal Amir's mother."

I'd like to ask John Jr.: Isn't there a fine line between what sells and what smells?

I'd like to ask him why he has welcomed with such wide-open arms an elaborate and "startling" account by such respected, even-handed authorities on the subject as Geula Amir and her legal entourage, when *George* magazine has barely mentioned the Rabin assassination until now.

I will never forget what we underwent as a nation when Yitzhak Rabin died. Our grief lay on us like a heavy burden.

Geula may be able to poll the wool over American readers' eyes with her tales of Yigal ("He will redeem" etc.), but we Israelis know the difference between wool and fool.

Aside from Yigal's fan club, most Israelis must believe Geula has gone way too far — and I don't mean the 10,000 kilometers between here and the US.

As for John Kennedy Jr., he should be the last one to egg her on, to ignite her 15 minutes of fame and prime the printing presses for an eventual lucrative book deal.

Ironically, our only hope from the sidelines lies in officialdom: The US Embassy has not at this juncture granted Amir a visa to enter the land of golden opportunity.

She was supposed to have been there Sunday, JFK Jr. may end up boosting his magazine sales — but just maybe Geula won't make it to her own party after all.

If she does, I can assure her there will be no goody bags waiting for her at home.

The writer is a freelancer living in Jerusalem.

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On the first anniversary of the passing of  
**Hazan SHAYE PINSKY** ז"ל  
 Family and friends will gather at his grave  
 on Tuesday, February 25 (18 Adar I)  
 at Har Hamenuhot (Gush kaf alef, Helka bet) at 3 p.m.  
**The Family**

With deep sorrow we announce  
 the passing of our member

## ARYE ZIV

The funeral will take place today,  
 Friday, February 21 at 11 a.m. at Kfar Blum.

Members of Kfar Blum

We will be unveiling the tombstone for our beloved  
**NOMI LEV-YAHM**  
 on Sunday, Feb. 23, 12:30 p.m., at Yarkon Cemetery

Husband: Sonny Bar-on  
 Son: Chuck Feingold  
 Daughters: Vivian, Debbie, Wendy,  
 Betsy, Jill and Meggie

To the Rosenfeld Family and Sonia  
 Our sincerest condolences on the passing of our colleague  
**YORAM ROSENFELD** ז"ל  
 May you know no further sorrow.  
**Jack Bendheim**  
 and the Koffolk Company (1949), Ltd.

**SHVIT AMI** International Center for Russian Jews  
 We mourn the untimely passing of  
**ESTHER RACHEL HALPERIN** ז"ל  
 nee Kugel  
 Beloved daughter of Shvut Ami dean and co-founder,  
 Rabbi Eliezer Kugel  
 May the Almighty comfort the family among the mourners  
 of Zion and Jerusalem.  
 Alan Goldblatt Executive Director  
 Shimon Grilus Founder  
 Albert Reichmann Chairman

After much suffering bravely borne, our darling  
**DOV KULAWSKY** ז"ל  
 passed away on Tuesday, February 18, 1997  
 (11 Adar I)  
 Deeply mourned by his wife, Josephine  
 Daughters, Sharon, Naomi and Ruth  
 Sons-in-law, brothers, grandchildren,  
 family and friends

With deep sorrow, Emunah of America extends  
 heartfelt condolences to the  
**Bernstein family**  
 on the passing of our beloved and devoted  
 Honorary National President  
**DOROTHY BERNSTEIN** ז"ל  
 חסדכם יתכן אתכם בתוך שאר אכלי ציון וירושלים

To the Borchard Family  
 Our deepest sympathy on the death of  
**KURT BORCHARD**  
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With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved

## KURT BORCHARD ז"ל

His wife, Ruth and family

Shiva at the home of the Yehiel family,  
 81 Rehov Hayarkon, Apt. 8, Tel Aviv. Tel.: 03-517-6516.

# China mourns Deng

## News agencies

BEIJING — Ten thousand people will be invited to the funeral of Deng Xiaoping next Tuesday in China's Great Hall of the People, and his eyes will be donated for transplant and his organs for research. Deng's family, in keeping with his wishes, requested that there be no solemn bowing before his corpse. His ashes will be scattered rather than saved, and foreign leaders will not attend his funeral, the high-level Communist Party committee overseeing the arrangements said yesterday.

Deng, one of the last leaders of the Communist revolution, died late Wednesday night of a lung infection and in the advanced stages of Parkinson's disease. He was 92. Increasingly frail, he was last seen in public three years ago.

World leaders yesterday paid tribute to patriarch Deng as the architect of modern China and praised him for freeing the socialist shackles that hobbled the country's vast population.

President Bill Clinton expressed his sadness and called Deng an "extraordinary figure on the world stage over the past two decades."

US Secretary of State Madeleine

Albright, visiting London, told reporters: "It would obviously be a great advantage to the Chinese as well as to all of us if there were a smooth transition (in Beijing)." Asian financial markets reacted positively with stocks in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan closing mostly higher as Deng's death was seen as removing recent uncertainties for investors.

But the impact on European markets was muted.

France heaped praise on Deng but drew a veil over his formative years spent laboring in grimy French factories, where the man who became China's leader learned to hate capitalist exploitation.

Deng left China in 1920 as part of a work-study program, arriving in the southern port of Marseille at the age of 16 and spent the next five years in France, working, while studying, in factories where he saw the seamy underside of capitalism. French President Jacques Chirac praised the dead Chinese leader as the main architect of China's modernization and recalled that France had "greeted Deng Xiaoping on its soil in the early 1920s."

The office of British Prime Minister John Major said Deng's "initiative played the crucial part in creating today's economical-

ly dynamic and successful China."

Germany described Deng as an important statesman who had decisively influenced China's development over 20 years.

"Deng Xiaoping counts as one of the great leadership personalities of China's recent history," Chancellor Helmut Kohl said in a statement.

Diplomats at NATO, which has no formal dealings with China, took the death calmly. There was no official comment from the alliance.

China opposes NATO's plans to expand eastwards, but far less stridently than Moscow. Diplomats said they expected no policy change.

Asian leaders mourned Deng's death and said his reforms transforming China into an economic powerhouse had earned him a place among the world's great statesmen.

From Pakistan to New Zealand, prime ministers and presidents heaped tribute upon Deng, saying he would long be remembered for dismantling the socialist chains that tied China's vast population for decades.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said he was filled with great sadness at Deng's death and hoped his passing would not affect crucial Japanese-

Sino relations, which he said were of growing importance for peace and stability of the world.

"I will continue to work with China's leaders for the long-term stability of our bilateral relationship," Hashimoto said in a statement.

South Korean President Kim Young-sam said he was saddened but hoped Seoul's friendly ties with Beijing would strengthen. Communist North Korea's de facto leader Kim Jong-il praised Deng as an "intimate friend and comrade-in-arms" of the Korean people and said his death was a great loss to them.

Officials in the British colony of Hong Kong, which reverts to Chinese rule at midnight on June 30, paid their respects.

Colonial Governor Chris Patten was one of the first to be escorted inside the Xinhua news agency, Beijing's de facto mission in Hong Kong, to offer his condolences.

"He will be regarded by future generations as an historic figure," said Patten, the territory's last governor.

But reaction was not all praise. Tibet's government-in-exile accused Deng of decades of repression and said his death offered a chance to his successor to solve the region's long-standing problems.



Nice place you've got here!

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (left) admires the residence of Alexy II (right), the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, in Moscow yesterday on her two-day visit to the Russian capital.

## Japan on alert after Red Army arrests

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Lebanon has tightened security around the Japanese embassy in east Beirut after Lebanese authorities arrested a number of Japanese Red Army suspects five days ago.

Two plainclothes state security men stood at the embassy's entrance yesterday and two more inside the compound while two others drove around the four-story building in Baabda suburb in hills overlooking Beirut.

A Lebanese police patrol also circled the compound, 200 metres from Lebanon's presidential palace, five km east of Beirut, they added.

Last Saturday, security forces arrested five Japanese Red Army suspects, three Japanese sympathizers and three Lebanese citizens in Beirut and the eastern Bekaa Valley.

Authoritative sources in Tokyo said Japanese embassies around the world were ordered to tighten security after the arrests.

The sources also said that Japan and Lebanon were discussing the deportation to Tokyo of the suspected terrorists named in the media as Kazuo Tohira, 44, Hisashi Matsuda, 48, Mariko Yamamoto, 56, Masao Adachi, 57 and Kozo Okamoto, 49.

Lebanon justice ministry sources said Japan's ambassador Yasuji Ishikagi expressed yesterday his country's readiness to cooperate with the Lebanese judicial authorities in identifying the suspects.

The ambassador told Justice Minister Bahij Tabbara in Beirut that Tokyo would want to negotiate possible ways to extradite the suspects if it was proved that they were involved in terrorist acts, the sources added.

The Red Army, founded in 1971 and responsible for the Lod airport massacre, remains allied to hard-line Palestinian terrorist factions.

## Liz Taylor brain operation begins

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Surgeons began operating on Elizabeth Taylor to remove a benign brain tumor yesterday.

"Surgery is under way and things are going as planned," Cedars-Sinai Medical Center spokesman Ron Wise said. The actress was wheeled into the operating room about an hour earlier for the anticipated four to five hours of surgery.

Miss Taylor, who turns 65 next week, was in good spirits, said her publicist, Maria Pignataro. She was expected to recover fully. The tumor was discovered during a routine checkup Feb. 3. Her four children — Michael Wilding, Christopher Wilding, Liza Todd-Tivey and Maria Burton-Carson — as well as several of

her older grandchildren were waiting at the hospital. A fleet of television microwave and satellite trucks was lined up outside the hospital, their crews huddled inside to avoid strong winds hitting the area.

A neurosurgeon who successfully treated comedian George Burns was leading the team of doctors in removing the growth in the lining of the left parietal lobe. The area is over and behind the left ear.

Dr. Martin Cooper, clinical chief of neurosurgery at Cedars-Sinai, was using a computerized probe to give the team a three-dimensional view of the growth.

"He's going to be using a computer-generated neurological navigation system and micronavi-

gational techniques," Wise said.

"They will produce a three-dimensional image of the tumor. A probe will enable the surgeon to precisely locate the tumor."

Miss Taylor won Academy Awards for *Butterfield 8* in 1960 and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in 1966.

The location of the tumor was initially described by Pignataro as being in the area of the left frontal lobe.

However, Wise said it is further back in the parietal lobe area.

The operation was earlier described as common by Dr. Gregory J. Rubino, an expert who said post-surgery hospitalization usually ranges from three to five days.

## Diplomat surrenders 'Cosby's daughter' pleads not guilty

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Georgian diplomat involved in a Washington car crash that killed a 16-year-old girl surrendered to police yesterday to face involuntary manslaughter charges.

Georgia had waived diplomatic immunity privileges for the diplomat, Georgy Makharadze. The case raised new queries against diplomats who accumulate traffic citations or violate other laws with immunity in the United States.

Makharadze, 35, was taken in handcuffs by city traffic police and charged with one count of

involuntary manslaughter five counts of aggravated assault. The manslaughter charge carries a maximum 30 year sentence upon conviction.

He was charged in the Jan. 3 crash that killed Jovian Waltrick, a Brazilian girl who had recently moved to a Washington suburb in Maryland.

Makharadze appeared with three attorneys at the police station shortly before 10 a.m. The attorneys left, without their client, several minutes later.

Although diplomatic immunity may ask that, if convicted, Makharadze be imprisoned in Georgia.

The maximum penalty for involuntary manslaughter is 30 years.

NEW YORK (AP) — The woman who claims she is the illegitimate daughter of comedian and movie star Bill Cosby pleaded innocent yesterday to conspiracy and extortion charges.

Autumn Jackson, 22, and her alleged accomplice, Jose Medina, 51, entered their innocent pleas during arraignment in Manhattan federal court.

"I'd like to send my condolences to the Cosby family about Ennis' death," she added, referring to the 27-year-old son of the comedian who was shot to death Jan. 16 as he changed a flat tire in Los Angeles.

Ms. Jackson was charged with

trying to extort millions from Cosby, one of the most famous entertainers in America, by threatening to go public with her claim that she is his illegitimate daughter.

Cosby denied that Ms. Jackson was his daughter but later said in a television interview that "there is a possibility" he is the father because he had an affair with her mother.

Ms. Jackson was freed on bail following her Jan. 18 arrest.

She and Medina had come to New York and signed a \$24 million agreement to stop her from telling her story to the tabloids, prosecutors said. Medina remains jailed.

The alleged extortion attempt came two days after Cosby's son was killed.

Since Ms. Jackson and Medina were first charged, Ms. Jackson's boyfriend, Antony Williams, has pleaded guilty to helping in the alleged plot by doing research on Cosby and his corporate sponsors and by taking the pair to the airport for their flight to New York.

Cosby has said he made payments to Ms. Jackson for educational purposes, as he had for other needy young people.

## Copts slain after Israel visit

ASSIUT, Egypt (Reuters) — Police in southern Egypt may have found a motive for the massacre of 10 Christian youths by suspected Islamists after investigations showed that many of them had visited Israel, security sources said yesterday.

Six gunmen shocked Egypt last week when they stormed a church in Abu Qirgas town and sprayed bullets into a youth meeting. Police believe they belong to the militant al-Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group).

The father of Adel Mikhail Abdel Malak, one of the youths killed in the attack, told reporters yesterday his son had worked in Israel for five months as had some of the others shot dead inside the church.

Southern police officials confirmed that some of the youths had spent several months in Israel and said this fact had added "another dimension" to the incident.

Militants have often targeted policemen and sometimes Christians in their attempt to transform Egypt into a strict Islamic state but security sources said that this was the first time that gunmen attacked the interior of a church.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "سبحان الله"



## Tug of war

The debate over construction in Har Homa hits at the heart of the issue of Jerusalem's sovereignty, Herb Keinon reports

To hear the opposing sides of the Har Homa issue, one could think that the very future of Jerusalem rests on whether or not this neighborhood will be built. Those advocating

construction argue that not building Har Homa would signify the redrawing of Jerusalem. Those opposing the neighborhood say that building will ignite a conflagration that could lead to war.

"Not building in Jerusalem, not closing PLO offices in Jerusalem, not approving the plan to build between Ma'aleh Adumim and Jerusalem is, de facto, dividing Jerusalem," Likud-Gesher MK Michael Kleiner, unofficial head of the Land of Israel Front, said this week.

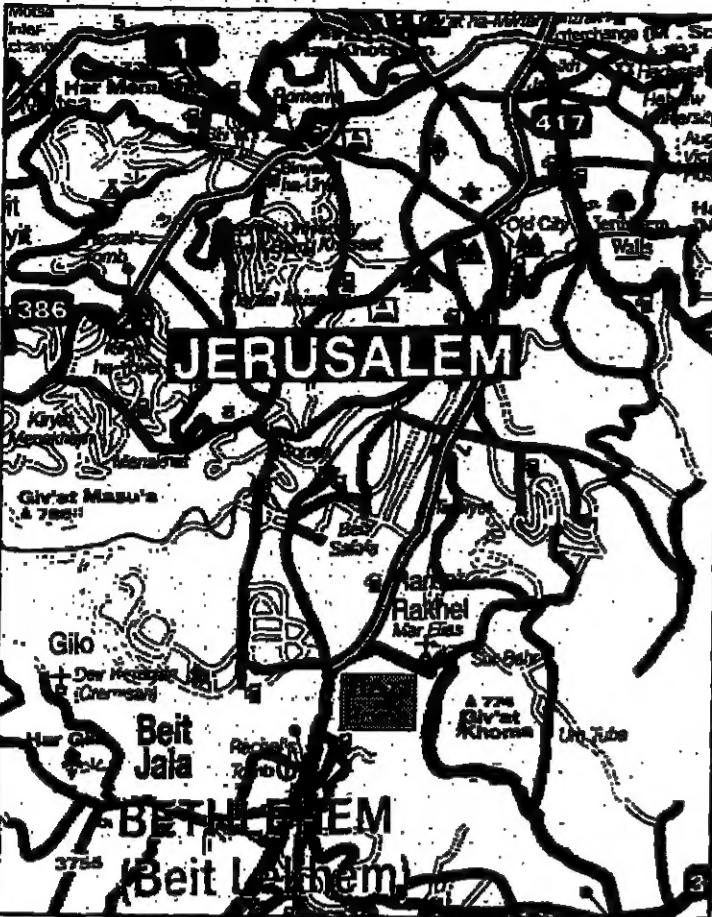
That's one way to look at it. "If Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decides to build Har Homa, that is a declaration of war against the Palestinians," Faisal Husseini was quoted as saying. "If Netanyahu decides on the establishment of the neighborhood, it will prove that he does not want peace and is not willing to honor agreements - something that will lead to the collapse of the peace process."

That's the other way. What is at stake, at least on a superficial level, are some 6,300 housing units to be spread over 1,850 dunams of scenic real estate at the southeastern reaches of the capital. What is at stake, at a deeper level, is perhaps sovereignty over the city, and the establishment of all important territorial contiguity.

Har Homa sits, at least in part, on a wooded hill at the very southern edge of the city. It is visible to the east as one approaches the IDF roadblock to Bethlehem. It forms



A Palestinian landowner (left, holding map) argues with MKs (from right to left) Shaul Yahalom, Haim Dayan and Shmaryahu Ben Tsur during a tour of Har Homa.



part of that pastoral, rolling-hill, biblical-looking landscape so often depicted in those turn-of-the-century drawings of the Holy City.

In 1991, then finance minister Yitzhak Moda'i signed an order calling for the expropriation of 1,850 dunams of land on Har Homa for the "public need." What differentiated this expropriation from other massive land expropriations to build new neighborhoods in Jerusalem in the late 1960s and

1970s, was that this time most of the land - 1,400 dunams of it - was taken from Jewish landowners. The other 450 dunams were expropriated from Palestinians in neighboring Umm Tuba and Beit Sahur.

The project has passed all the various planning hurdles, and even an appeal to the High Court of Justice, and is now just waiting for Netanyahu's nod.

Some 2,500 units are to be constructed. Continued on Page 18

## On the drawing board

In addition to fighting for the building of Har Homa, the Land of Israel Front has also placed two other issues at the top of its agenda: the building of a project to link Jerusalem to Ma'aleh Adumim in the northeast, and a series of roads linking the capital with the coastal plain.

The Ma'aleh Adumim Jerusalem project is, according to National Religious Party MK Hanan Porat, "more important than Har Homa."

This project, proposed for an area between the two cities called E-1, calls for the building of some 1,400 housing units and seven hotels with 3,000 hotel rooms.

By building this project, Israel will not only be creating a territorial link between the capital and the largest settlement in the territories, but will - perhaps even more importantly - prevent a territorial link between Bethlehem and Ramallah.

A territorial link is necessary for the establishment of a Palestinian state, Porat said. Anything preventing this will make it more difficult to create a Palestinian state.

The Ma'aleh Adumim municipality and the planning body in the Civil Administration have approved the master plan for this project, and it now must be

approved by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. According to the Land of Israel Front, Mordechai has not done anything about the project for seven months.

Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel said that the failure to move on the project signals to him that the government wants to keep open the option of a Palestinian state.

The other project the Front is concentrating on is the construction of road number 45, which will run from the Ben Shimon area to Pisgat Ze'ev, and then to Mishor Adumim.

Work on parts of this road has already begun, and at a meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem on Tuesday, it was decided to "advance the paving of this road."

Besides easing congestion on the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, this road is also designed to prevent territorial contiguity between a number of Palestinian villages in the Ramallah area.

In addition, it will also keep the Jerusalem neighborhoods of Neveh Ya'acov and Pisgat Ze'ev from being completely encircled - and, in a worst-case scenario, cut off - by Palestinian villages and neighborhoods. H.K.

## Force 17 tests Netanyahu

One of the criticisms of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heard most often on the right is that he cannot stand up to pressure - not pressure from David Levy, not pressure from Bill Clinton, not pressure from Yasser Arafat.

Can he withstand pressure from Michael Kleiner?

The birth last week of an ad-hoc parliamentary lobby called Force 17, is an attempt to put the prime minister to the test. "The message we are sending Netanyahu," said Likud-Gesher MK Kleiner, the unofficial head of this group, "is that if he builds in Jerusalem, we will be his security net. But if he doesn't build, we will not see any reason to support him." Kleiner prefers to call the group the Land of Israel Front, rather than Force 17, with its unfortunate name association to the elite PLO unit that guards Yasser Arafat.

Just as Yisrael Ba'aliya sees its role as looking after the interests of the new immigrants, and Shas sees itself as looking after the interests of the Sephardim, so the Land of Israel Front sees as its role looking after the interests of the Land of Israel, Kleiner said. "Our job is to preserve what we can [of Eretz Yisrael], and place political pressure on Netanyahu."

The name of the group, Force 17, refers to the 17 Knesset members who voted against the Hebron redeployment. Kleiner said that the number of MKs who agree with the group's position on Jerusalem is nearly twice that number.

"When Rabin went to Clinton, he could always say that there were things he just could not do because of opposition from the Likud. Up until now there was no similar opposition to Netanyahu," Kleiner said.

It was no coincidence that 13 MKs of Force 17 went on their tour of Har Homa and other points of contention this week guided by the leaders of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. The council, which for months has been debating how best to pressure the prime minister to "return to himself," has been active behind the scenes trying to bring together the various MKs to form a real political threat to Netanyahu.

And, insists Kleiner, the group is not bluffing in its threats to vote against the government. "If we are not willing to go all the way, we won't get anything," he said.

Kleiner dismissed the notion of a national unity government as an "empty gun," saying that if such a government is created, the Likud will - in an attempt to underscore its differences with Labor - "once again become the Likud" and move Netanyahu right.

"The government is supposed to act according to its plank, and in line with its ideology," Kleiner said. "If it doesn't, it has no reason to exist. I have never supported a Meretz-led government, and will not be a part of a coalition that adopts Meretz's policies." H.K.

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# Celebrity row

It's just 36 hours since her release from prison and Esmat Abu Saa seems a trifle dazed. At Ramallah City Hall where festivities are in full swing she is one of a dozen women on celebrity row.

Imprisoned for conspiring to kidnap a soldier, she was released on February 12 along with 29 other Palestinian women as part of the interim peace agreement. Now she shakes hands demurely with strangers, gets up from her seat to receive the hugs of old friends and poses for photos with wide-eyed teenage girls in school uniform. It's easy to imagine her as a movie star or pop singer visiting her home town.

There was a rousing reception in Ramallah when the bus full of women arrived in the wee hours of the morning. Even Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat came out to greet them. When Abu Saa finally reached her home in Tulkarm, she found it filled with friends and relatives.

And now, on her second day of freedom, she is again surrounded by well-wishers, at a City Hall reception sponsored by the Ramallah-based Association of Women's Committees for Social Work, Fatah's social-welfare organization.

The walls are festooned with banners proclaiming the community's pride in the "brave women prisoners." Abu Saa sits in a seat

**Released Palestinian women prisoners are being feted as heroines, but their society may not be ready for the challenges they pose to traditional gender roles, Esther Hecht writes**

of honor, dressed in fashionable beige trousers and a tweedy brown sweater, a shawl with traditional cross-stitch in the colors of the Palestinian flag draped over her shoulders.

Men and women in holiday finery circulate with baskets of sweets and trays of cakes. High-ranking PA officials - including Ahmed Tibi, adviser to Arafat, and Yasser Abed Rabbo, PA Minister of Culture, Arts and Information - arrive to pay their respects.

There will be several more parties and receptions, as groups vie to honor the women. But when the celebrations are over, the former prisoners will return to a traditional, patriarchal society.

It is a society in which men seeking wives through the only personal-ads service available, in the popular magazine *Fosta*, invariably say "virgin" is their first criterion. It is a society that has little use for strong-willed,

outspoken women, and certainly not for women who believe they are the equals of men.

Yet that is how these women see themselves. In their long discussions in prison about the role of women, Abu Saa says, they "persuaded one another that there is no difference between men and women."

Their shared experience also made the women - Christians and Moslems, single and married - closer than sisters. As Abu Saa puts it, "We are like one hand; we are like one body."

That bonding was so strong that the 22 prisoners whose sentences were commuted in October 1995 refused to leave unless all the rest of them went free. Last week, the 30 women who were to be freed refused to go without the last four, until the four urged them to leave.

Now they are returning to a community that is, at best, ambivalent toward them, according to Ghada Zughayar, who until recently headed The Jerusalem Center for Women. For Zughayar, this attitude is rooted in the immaturity of Palestinian culture and its failure, under the Palestinian Authority, to develop democratic norms.

"There have been lots of speeches and slogans proclaiming commitment to the equality of women, democracy and a progressive society, but these are just lip service," she says. Last year's elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council, in which only five out of 28 women candidates won, is yet another sign of this failure.

And AP reported that one of the Palestinian delegates to the 1995 UN Conference on Women in Beijing said PA officials had told them to focus on their suffering under Israeli rule and to play down issues like domestic violence and the unequal treatment of women under local laws.

Huneida Ghanim, a graduate student in sociology at the Hebrew University, sees more specific reasons for the inability of Palestinian society to accept women prisoners fully. This society is still founded on the functional and spatial separation of the sexes, she argues in a paper delivered last month in Jerusalem at a symposium on Women and Crime, sponsored by the university's Institute of Criminology. Her findings are based on interviews with 30 women who were prisoners between 1967 and 1987.

The public sphere belongs to men; the private sphere belongs to women, but is subject to domination by men, Ghanim explains in her paper. (She refused to be interviewed for this article.) The values of family honor, which are intimately connected to women's modesty, are the most important mechanisms that preserve this division, and violating these values injures the entire family.

Since prison is considered part of the masculine domain, Palestinian women prisoners were the first to challenge the strict division between spheres. Thus, although they were considered

national heroines, they were also seen as having endangered their own and their families' honor, by encroaching on the masculine sphere, far from the supervision of their families.

The word spread quickly that two women prisoners were raped in the Jerusalem lockup in the '60s, Ghanim says, and the primary concern of women's families was possible exposure to sexual assault. So they discouraged their daughters from becoming politically active, for fear of imprisonment and the possible loss of reputation.

Once they were imprisoned, however, women used phrases like "sister of men" to describe their courage. But using language that defined themselves in relation to men only served to strengthen male supremacy, Ghanim says.

The families of women prisoners have found ways to cope with their daughters' imprisonment, but the society as a whole has not, Ghanim concludes. Released prisoners are not considered preferred marriage partners, and she heard the following complaint again and again from her interviewees: "Even a man who took an active part in the struggle will seek for a marriage partner a young girl who does not endanger herself by engaging in political activity, and most important of all, who does not argue with him about anything."

RAWDA ODEH, 48, who has done time herself, has no such problem in identifying with the prisoners. She spent four years behind bars for trying, as a member of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, to poison a man she suspected of being a collaborator. Soon after her release, she was detained again for six months for membership in the PFLP.

When Odeh was arrested in 1969, there was no women's prison, and she spent her first two years in a section of Nablus men's prison, which was ill-equipped to house women. There, she says, 18 women shared a cell of 20 square meters. A bucket in the corner served as a toilet. They were allowed showers only once a month.

Odeh says she was one of two leaders in Nablus prison who organized hunger strikes to obtain books, better food, and time outside in the yard.

In fact, Odeh's struggle for better conditions began in Jerusalem's Russian Compound lockup, while she awaited trial. She had feared all along she might be caught, and the PFLP had prepared her for incarceration. "Everything I saw in prison, I knew about beforehand," she says. But the reality of it shocked her. She met the two women who said they had been raped.

In her month-long interrogation at the Russian Compound, she encountered prostitutes for the first time. She saw them take off their clothes and hug the policemen, she recalls. Their behavior was as incomprehensible as it was offensive to her. "In our society, if a woman [even] talks to a man who is a neighbor, they can kill us."

She began a hunger strike, demanding to be separated from the Israeli women. After 13 days her demands were met. Only afterwards, she says, did she realize that holding her with prostitutes was just a means of intimidating her. Thus, according to Odeh, the pressure to leave political activism



Sisters in arms: Palestinian women greet a released prisoner in Ramallah.

(Sarit Uziel)

to men came from both the Israelis and the Palestinians. "The Israelis threatened our *ard*," she says, using one of the words that denote family honor. "Our mothers and sisters had told us the only thing we must keep is our *ard*."

By the time of the intifada, however, loss of family honor was less of a real threat, Abu Saa says. "In the '70s, the interrogators used sexual punishment. My parents knew it wouldn't happen now."

Like Abu Saa, Odeh came out of prison with a strong feminist stance, but tied, as Ghanim points out, to the culture of national struggle. "I'm proud to be a woman and I want to convince my people that a woman is the same as a man. I am a woman for my husband. With other men, I relate to them as equal."

"It's my right to do the same job as men. In a revolution you need everyone - men and women - to win."

BETWEEN THE rhetoric and the reality, however, lies the shadow of a society in which male dominance remains an entrenched value.

"Most Palestinian men who want a woman in the house do not want her to share their lives or to be equal to them," Odeh says. The fact that some former inmates have never married can be attributed in part to their having been in prison, she adds.

According to Odeh, some of the released prisoners of her generation also had trouble finding work, but she attributes this to employers' fears of trouble with the Israeli authorities.

Since the establishment of the PA, however, this has changed. Rana Kanaan, for example, who was released in 1995, found work as a PA customs clerk at Allenby Bridge. Women affiliated with Fatah have even found high-ranking jobs, Odeh says. Arafat promised to find jobs in the PA for the recently released prisoners, she adds, and he asked Social Affairs Minister Intisar Wazir (known popularly as Um Jihad) to make sure that those who had no marketable skills receive job training.

Even Abu Saa believes her time in prison will stand her in good stead: "I hope [having been] in prison will help me get a job," she says. In fact, she believes Palestinian society is changing and will have a place for her.

But now, all Abu Saa and her parents want, she says, is for her to complete her undergraduate studies in English. "All their hopes and dreams are for me to graduate."

Abu Saa was in her third year at An-Najah University in Nablus when she was arrested the first time and sentenced to 20 months' imprisonment for possession of a knife. "I had an idea to use it against a soldier," she says in her steady, quiet voice, with the emphasis on the word "idea," as if it had as little substance as the smoke rising from her cigarette.

She returned to the university, studied one more semester, then was arrested again, this time for conspiring to kidnap a soldier to effect the release of other women prisoners. Like the first time, she insists "it was just an idea."

Before her release this time, Abu

Saa signed a commitment to support the peace process and refrain from terrorism, and she has learned this catechism by heart. Can Israelis and Palestinians live alongside each other? "I believe it's possible," she responds, with a ring of conviction. "The truest way is coexistence."

She has less than a year to go to finish her degree. Then, perhaps, she will teach English. And perhaps then she will also consider marriage. When she was in prison the first time, men would come around to her parents' home asking for her hand. "My parents said: 'She will go back to the university, and then she will think about this.'"

In any case, at 30, she seems in no rush to marry, perhaps because of the powerful feminist message she has brought away with her from prison.

## Mothers of terror victims outraged and bitter

Last week's release of several Palestinian women prisoners, including the murderers of a number of Israelis, has struck a bitter chord among relatives of terror victims, particularly bereaved mothers.

Gracia Manos, whose son David was killed in 1984 by Lamia Maruf, set free by the Israeli authorities last week, was among those shocked by the government's decision to release the prisoners. "For what did they release this awful woman, so she could be a terrorist?" she bellowed.

"The whole idea of releasing prisoners was completely wrong," explained Yehudit Dosberg, whose daughter and son-in-law were killed when their car was ambushed on a road in the territories last June, five days after Netanyahu's election. "These are not prisoners of war, they are criminals and murderers, [whose] release shows that this peace is above the law."

Dosberg made clear that she was against all types of murder, including those by Jews, but asserted that the release signaled to the world that Arab blood was more valuable than Jewish blood. "This peace obligates us and not them. It cannot be in Israel that half the people are above the law and half are not. It takes the justice out of this peace."

Joyce Boim, another mother of a terror victim, also insisted that release of the murderers was "a travesty of justice."

"It is utterly ridiculous [to release the Palestinian murderers] while our Jewish prisoners that were

going to defend or avoid a blood-bath are sitting in jail," she added, referring to the Jewish murderers sitting in Israeli jails for carrying out acts of terror against Palestinians.

"As a mother who lost a child whose murderer still hasn't been brought to justice, it hurts," Boim said, deeming it inappropriate to adopt a conciliatory attitude toward the Palestinians.

"The prime minister promised in a meeting with us that after the Hebrew withdrawal the issue of bringing terrorists to justice would be at the top of the agenda," lamented Aryeh Bachrach, whose son was murdered in Wadi Kelt. He asserted that the government's action betrayed ill will toward his and other such families, pointing out that it was unnecessary to release an additional six Palestinian women who were not required to be set free according to the terms of the Oslo agreement.

"One of my son's murderers is a tour guide in Hebron," complained Yehudit Gross. She described how another one of her son's murderers was released in a prisoner exchange several years ago and then went to Egypt where he perpetrated an attack against a group of Israeli tourists that left several civilians dead.

"I don't think the release is fair because we haven't seen any reciprocity on the Palestinian side," argued Gross. "I want peace, but this is not real peace. If we would only have unity of all Jews and respect for one another, then we would merit God's granting us a real peace." - Uriel Heilman

## Little remorse

All the Palestinian women prisoners released last week signed a commitment to support the peace process and not to engage in terrorism. But journalists who asked them what they would say to the families of terror-attack victims got a stock response.

"I have nothing to say to the wife of Zvi Klein," retorted Abeer Wahidi, 27, sentenced five years ago to 17 years' imprisonment for her part in the killing of the Ofra resident.

"Does the Israeli soldier say anything to the Palestinian woman whose son he has killed?"

A member of an earlier generation of Palestinian women prisoners, Rawda Odeh, refuses to speak of any of the recently released women as killers or terrorists. "Revolutionaries" and "heroines" are the terms she insists on using, and she has no regrets for her own attempt to poison a man she says was a collaborator.

In 1994, Odeh responded to the number 5 bus attack in Tel Aviv, in which 22 people were killed and 48 were wounded, with horrified fascination, but no emotion. "I cried so much during the intifada for what the soldiers did, and when I saw what happened on the buses, I couldn't help but watch how [their families] were crying. I didn't rejoice, but I didn't cry."



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## error victim and bitter



## Breaking the ice

Israel and the US will be better able to weather future storms following Netanyahu's meeting with Clinton, reports Hillel Kuttler from Washington

For Binyamin Netanyahu, last week must have been what he imagined a prime minister's visit to Washington should be.

It's a wonder what a period of calm and the perception of progress can do. The visit was characterized foremost by the absence of the major clouds lurking over two of Netanyahu's three previous trips here. It stood in stark contrast to last July's visit, when the Clinton administration was still fighting election shock syndrome. And unlike late September, riots were not just days behind, with all the attendant pressures for Netanyahu to deliver concessions in the White House summit with Yasser Arafat.

In those instances, the US "put a positive cast on things," knowing full well that "that's not really where the relationship was," a senior US official conceded.

This time, with the Hebron agreement having just been sealed and Netanyahu delivering a lopsided vote in Knesset, the atmosphere here was immeasurably improved. For the first time since Netanyahu took office, the administration believes that now, finally, it has a serious partner committed to and engaged fully in the process of making peace. The character of their dialogue with Netanyahu reached a positive enough level for one senior American official to term it an "honest discussion" — as opposed to the more familiar term "candid" talks — where the sides now know they are capable of "really working together, where you can find ways to really sort things out."

"Whatever difficulties come up, we have more of a capacity to manage them than before. Part of it is a function of working together in negotiations, part is a function of the leaders meeting."

The trust now reached with

Netanyahu, he added, puts the Israelis and Americans in a better position to weather their inevitable disagreements ahead. But maybe not too far ahead. This week's evolving Har Homa controversy could be but a precursor to the big debates lurking as the first IDF redeployment occurs and final-status negotiations with the Palestinians commence in March.

The consensus of interviews with American officials involved in Middle East diplomacy is that three elements contributed substantially to Netanyahu's rehabilitation here:

**The question now, of course, is how long Netanyahu's second honeymoon might last**

the Hebron deal, which cemented Netanyahu in the peace camp; the process leading up to the accord, which created a level of intimacy between the US and the new Israeli negotiators; and last Thursday's meeting with President Clinton, marked by an unprecedented depth of discussion between the two leaders.

According to the US official, the three-hour session was the "best of the visits we've had here" because it was the first where there was a genuine dialogue between Netanyahu and Clinton. Both Israeli and US officials maintain that news reports prior to the talks, that anticipated Netanyahu laying out in detail his approach to a final status agreement with the Palestinians, or even how the first redeployment will look, were not grounded in reality.

For the first time, Netanyahu cogently laid out Israel's security needs, with Clinton asking a num-



(Reuters)

ber of probing questions. "Many of the things that were said, it was the first time they were said," the official commented of Netanyahu's overview, which included a lengthy meeting with Clinton one-on-one.

"It wasn't him coming in and saying, 'This is the way it's gonna be.' This was a presentation that was reasonable," the official said.

"The reason the president said he was encouraged was because of the cast of mind, the cast of feeling, the character of the exchange. It con-

vinced the president there's a genuine desire to move forward. And you [Netanyahu] don't share those kinds of considerations unless you're serious."

Netanyahu's seriousness in progressing with the PA extended beyond Hebron, said the official, pointing to the recent release of 30 Palestinian female prisoners, along with the VAT agreement with the Palestinians. Officials acknowledge now that somewhere along the trying path to the Hebron deal's culmination in mid-January, the realization hit that Netanyahu was committed to what one called a "level of seriousness."

"It was the process that began to change the image [to one] of the readiness to live up to commitments." "It helped a great deal," said former assistant secretary of state for Near East Affairs Edward Djerejian, of the Hebron deal. "This was a sine qua non for the Israeli-Palestinian relationship to move forward. It was a litmus test for the Israeli government in the eyes of Washington."

Or, as a former official stated: "The guy four months ago [following the September riots] was in the dog house in Washington and tried

to muscle his way out of town without giving an inch. Now, he's out of the dog house." The question now, of course, is how long Netanyahu's second honeymoon might last. On the Syrian track, the ball appears to be headed soon to Damascus's side of the court. Netanyahu went public with his formula that talks could resume with him "taking note" of previous talks run by Labor.

The Americans are now seeking to bridge the gaps between Jerusalem and Damascus but caution that no breakthrough on the procedural obstacle is imminent. For that reason, neither Secretary of State Madeleine Albright nor US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross is likely to head to the region for at least a month. There's even less urgency to go right now, with visits in any case scheduled here by PA chairman Yasser Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein between now and the end of March.

The State Department also said this week that it would prefer that Har Homa and the two roads around Jerusalem not move off the drawing boards quite yet so as not to complicate Israeli-Palestinian relations. But the US recognizes that having delivered on Hebron, Netanyahu may have burnished his peace credentials but has no fewer domestic pressures.

With Har Homa representing the latest, potentially explosive test, it just goes to illustrate that Netanyahu's problems "are basically in Israel, not in Washington," said former US ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis. "Whether he gets through the Bar-On affair is more significant than anything he can go through here."

Former National Security Council official Geoffrey Kemp attributed the more optimistic tone in the bilateral relationship to a simple realization: "The prime minister has made some genuine concessions, or statesmanlike acts, which are very much appreciated."

## Ezer takes tea with the Queen

On the eve of President Weizman's visit to London, Barry Rubin argues that Israeli-British relations are in a healthy state — for now

It's long overdue, but Israel's president is finally going to play the palace. Ezer Weizman's stay as a guest in Buckingham Palace next week is a good indication of the excellent state of Israeli-British relations today. Yet the fact that the first state visit is coming a half-century after Israel's independence also shows how problematic this relationship has been.

During his historic trip, which begins next Tuesday, Weizman will be feted by Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister John Major, and other British leaders.

As an alumnus of the Royal Air Force, he will be an honored visitor to its most advanced base. And Weizman's call at the Imperial War Museum's new wing commemorating the Holocaust is going to call attention to a belated British focus on that colossal tragedy.

A big influence, of course, have been the dramatic changes in the Middle East political situation, making it clear even to the British establishment that better links to Israel need not entail worse relations with Arab states.

Historically, of course, there were also non-strategic factors contributing to suspicion and coldness toward Israel. Despite such honorable exceptions as Winston Churchill and Harold Wilson, British political and social life has been permeated by negative attitudes toward Jews. The Conservative Party was a preserve of snobbish antisemitism while the Labor Party was affected by a strident leftism that also seemed rooted in anti-Jewish sentiments.

Traditionally British Jews largely supported Labor. Although the party felt a strong affinity for its Israeli counterpart, its virulently

From being responsible mainly for maintaining good British-Arab relations, the Foreign Ministry increasingly seeks to play a role as mediator in the Middle East. Similarly, threats arising from Middle East radical regimes, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and Islamic revolutionary movements also make for more parallel Israeli and British interests.

As anyone who has seen the very accurate comedy series *Yes, Minister* knows, the civil service actually governs much of the time. Even career bureaucrats have begun to understand that any political settlement must be acceptable to Israel and cannot just be imposed on it.

Both in its own right and as part of the EU, Britain wants to play a bigger role in Middle East diplomacy. Yet as long as it demonstrates Israeli contentions of bias, the Europeans forfeit that chance. That's why the British and other governments were so embarrassed by President Jacques Chirac's opportunistic attacks on Israel.

UNIVERSITIES AND research centers have also shifted somewhat in their attitude toward Israel. A decade ago, any academic involved in regional studies who dared have a favorable view of the Jewish state — which might even mean supporting its existence — was isolated and reviled. Today, the situation has become more open and at least somewhat diverse; for example, in Middle East, Mediterranean, and strategic studies.

The atmosphere is still quite hostile, certainly compared to American standards. One of Britain's leading political journals, *International Affairs*, has just published two full-length articles, one advocating Israeli's elimination and replacement by a single Arab-Jewish state, and a further article attacking US policy as singlemindedly and self-destructively pro-Israel and anti-Arab.

Lagging behind even this situation, albeit again with many exceptions, is much of the British media. A recent television documentary, charged, using terms reminiscent of Shylock or Fagin, that wealthy Jews are taking money from poor Americans and funneling it to settlements in the territories.

Often, British journalists do not even bother to interview Israelis, while quoting Palestinian critics at great length.

Going after Netanyahu as a hardliner often seems merely an eagerly accepted rationale for bashing Israel.

The pattern of events has become so predictable as to be almost amusing.

A successful advance for the peace process, predicated on Israeli concessions, leads to several weeks or months of rejoicing and positive statements about Israel.

This is followed by a new set of tough Israel-Palestinian negotiations setting off new condemnations of Israeli intransigence and calls for pressure.

Thus, we might be in a fleeting oasis of good feeling that will prove to be a mirage. But with Elizabeth and Ezer dining together at last, there could be some irreversible progress as well.



(Weizman photo: Isaac Hazer/Queen Elizabeth: AP)

It is easy to take successful relations between the two countries for granted, given Britain's consistent support for US policy. But it is also possible to overlook them, given the continuing general hostility of British diplomatic and academic institutions and the media toward Israel.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's election last May intensified (or provided a fresh excuse for) this antagonism, while also causing serious concern for the British government about the peace process's fate.

The Hebron agreement has, at least temporarily, quieted official criticism. But other, longer-term factors have also been at work

anti-Israel period in the 1970s and 1980s made that orientation increasingly uncomfortable.

But even before the breakthroughs in the peace process in the early 1990s, prime minister Margaret Thatcher played a key role for making a pro-Israel policy acceptable in mainstream British politics. Major has essentially continued this orientation. The presence of Malcolm Rifkind, a Jewish politician with a record of support for Israel, in top-level cabinet posts is also a sign of this change, though he has been personally careful to display even-handedness.

Nowadays, British political life is understandably obsessed with the forthcoming general elections.

Foreign policy plays virtually no role in this battle. Still, a change in government could also mean a cooling of relations with Israel, if the left wing of Labor has influence over policy. Labor Party leaders deny that this will happen. Even if there is a difference, it will probably not mean a big situation.

In terms of British intellectual institutions, change is slower and not always so visible.

A few years ago, a leading British Middle East expert commented, "The Foreign Ministry is the world's last stronghold of Pan-Arab nationalism." Today, this characterization still has some truth.

But there are also signs that Whitehall is going through an evolution similar to that of the American State Department.

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### AN EMOTIONAL APPEAL FROM 19 YEAR OLD NOA ESTHER SCHWARTZ TO THOSE WHO HAVE LENT THEIR ASSISTANCE TO SAVE HER LIFE

Greetings and may G-d bless you all,  
I turn to you in this emotional appeal for your assistance. Some of you know me personally, but most of you are only familiar with the story of the wonderful journey to save my life from cancer, which was detailed on the eve of my last illness, first in my right leg and which later spread to both my lungs. You, as guardian angels, joined us by generously helping my devoted parents and brothers provide me with the best medical treatment money can buy, emotional strength and physical stamina. Together we climbed the steep mountain of difficult chemotherapy treatments and 10 operations in 6.5 years on my leg and lungs. I have been very fortunate, thank G-d, and at present, I am taking my first steps on my own two feet, as a medical student.  
For me, this is the realization of a dream and the answer to my prayers to the Almighty while on my sick-bed. It was at that time, that I decided that if the Almighty would grant me a full recovery from this terrible disease, I would, with G-d's help, devote myself to the study of medicine. I have undergone in 1993 and 1994, at London's Royal Brompton Hospital which specializes in the treatment of lung diseases. During those surgeries, half (1/2) of my right lung and a third (1/3) of my left lung were removed, due to the metastases detected in my lungs as a result of the tumor in my leg.  
Dr. Peter Goldstraw, F.R.C.S. consultant in thoracic surgery and director of surgery at the "Royal Brompton Hospital" is personally responsible for the follow-up assessment of my lung functioning every 4 months. "Brompton Hospital" has a unique medical apparatus, the "CT monitor" which is the only machine of its kind which can perform an assessment of any mechanical processes of the lung.  
Two inaccurate diagnoses, which almost cost me my life, were made in Israel in 1993 and 1994, using other equipment. That is the main reason for the British physicians demand that the follow-up be performed only at the "Brompton Hospital" in London.  
As you know, I can not be assessed using the MRI, due to the presence of the metal implant in my leg.  
My parents and brothers have stood steadfastly by my side these past difficult 6.5 years and have invested all their energy. My dear father has invested super human efforts in the study of the medical information, in medical consultations and in the search for a way to maximize the degree of success in saving my life, my lungs and leg, and to provide me with the best possible chance of returning to live a normal life. My father is currently paying the price of all the anxiety and terrible burden, and unfortunately, he too is not as healthy as his six years ago.  
He is experiencing physical and economic difficulties, as at a time when I still need his assistance, his advice and devotion to my cause.  
As scheduled, I will leave for London, Germany and Belgium in February 1997, for follow-up assessments of my lungs and for a scheduled operation on my knee, with G-d's help.  
I turn to you in an emotional appeal. Please help on as much as you can to cover the cost of the vital medical expenses which help save my life, and ease my daily functioning. We do not receive any institutional assistance, and except for a small portion provided by "Kaput Holim Medical Fund" we must carry the burden on our own.  
With my deepest appreciation and admiration,  
**Noa Esther Schwartz**  
Noa Esther Schwartz  
aged 19 years old

This vital assistance can be transferred to the following addresses:  
A) THE SAVE NOA ESTHER SCHWARTZ FUND, 8 Haray Underman Street Petach Tikva Israel 49270  
B) The Parents: Moshe and Haya Schwartz, P.O. Box 1080 Central Post Office, Neot Hasharon 46100  
C) Directly to the Bank account of the "Fund For Rescuing Noa Esther Schwartz", account no. 531570, at branch (no. 028) of the Mizrahi Bank (no. 20) at Kfar Haiman 12, Neveya 42271, Fax: 09-9616947.  
Medical information will be provided upon request by Mr. Moshe Schwartz, Tel. 39-7406567

**Strengthen ye the weak hands and make firm the tottering knees (Isaiah 35:3)**  
**"חזקו ידיים רכות וקשיחו רגליים תלולות"**  
Please Note: The Public Committee's authorization of this appeal for assistance which includes a list of the members, is granted to each medical trip separately, after the material has been thoroughly reviewed.  
We the undersigned, know the family and Noa Esther personally, and are familiar with the details of her illness. We join in this courageous appeal and warmly recommend that you generously contribute as much as possible in order to save a life.  
Please help us to give Noa health happiness and joy in life.

We respectfully, esteem the holy memory of Late Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Ozerbach Sh"l, one of the initiators and founders of Public Committee for the rescue of Noa Esther Schwartz.

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The Jerusalem Post



## MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

## Don it proudly, Madeleine

Just take a late afternoon stroll along the Vitava between the Manesov and Karlov bridges, and allow the surrounding castles, rocks and piazzas to wink, peep and snarl at you; soon enough, you too will fall prey to Prague's mystique.

Ultimately, this alternately melancholy and gay, but ever pristine and majestic town will leave you full of admiration for the small, industrious, peace-loving and good-humored Czech nation which produced such classical symbols of inspiration as author Karel Capek, statesman Tomas Masaryk, composer Bedrich Smetana and runner Emil Zatopek.

No wonder, then, that US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright saw no reason to hide her Czech roots as she developed her career. Unfortunately, that's a lot more than can be said of the enigmatic way in which she treated her Jewish roots.

Whenever she climbed yet another rung on America's academic, diplomatic and political ladders, Albright openly exhibited her Bohemian descent, and bailed her adopted homeland for allowing "the daughter of a Czech refugee" to climb so high as she had.

Surely, it was convenient for

Albright to portray herself as a victim of Fascism and communism. Yet what she really was — and remains — is a victim of anti-Semitism.

Had she not been the well-educated and intensely cosmopolitan woman she evidently is, one could have taken at face value the secretary's insistence that all her life she had had "no inkling of her Jewishness."

Yet people far less well-read and globe-trotted than her would reflexively suspect that behind an upper-middle-class family's abrupt flight from Czechoslovakia in the late 1930s, and the untimely deaths of all its grandparents in the 1940s, lurks the same Jewish fate which afflicted, for instance, this writer's four Czechoslovak grandparents.

Whether or not this failed exercise in escapism was originally Albright's or her parents' is immaterial; what matters is that in terms of the fear, shame and utility considerations which apparently had generated it, Albright should long ago have realized it was time to get her real ethnicity out of the closet.

Fortunately, half a millennium after the Spanish Inquisition and two generations after Nuremberg, to hide one's Jewishness has become an anachronism across the civilized world, where many eyebrows were raised in light of the Washington Post's findings concerning Albright's peculiar story.

In an America where in recent years assorted Greenspans, Rubins, Reichs, Rivlins, Glickmans, Bergers, Kantors,

Indyks, Rosses and Cohens have been assuming key government positions routinely, the sudden appearance of a kind of neo-Marrano is about as natural as Aryeh Dert joining the Supreme Court. Albright would have done well to look at the numerous openly Jewish officials who fill the administration of which she is a part, and understand that for her to fear the consequences of her ancestry becoming known is no longer rational.

Israelis, too, having already encountered Henry Kissinger, Bruno Kreisky, Malcolm Rifkind, Jacques Attali, and even Mrs. Boutros-Boutros Ghali, hardly yawn by now at the sight of yet another Jew firmly built into this or that corridor of power.

Moreover, past fears here that a Jewish secretary of state — eager to prove his or her impartiality — would arm-twist Israel into far-flung concessions, have also lost much of their relevance; the West Bank and Gaza are pretty much gone, and what will happen with the Golan is also well known by now to any political novice.

YET NOT only should her roots not scare Albright, but in fact she has plenty of which to be proud in that regard. Few ethnic groups produced so many luminaries as did Czech Jewry, from medieval theologian Yom-Tov Lipman and early-modern mystic philosopher Judah Loew — creator of Prague's mythical Golem, the beast which once went on a rampage until his

master stuck in its mouth a note with God's full name — to 20th-century authors Franz Kafka, Franz Werfel and Max Brod.

These, like most Czech Jews, had a frequently dialectic relationship with their neighboring cultures. Lipman wrote a major work of anti-Christian polemics, but regularly associated with non-Jewish scholars.

Judah Loew, according to the legend, had to create the Golem in order to defend the ever-vulnerable Jews of Prague, but he also held a philosophical dialogue with Emperor Rudolf II. Kafka, while arguably the most influential Czech writer ever, wrote in German; and, not coincidentally, his heroes obsessively searched for their identities.

Beyond those fear and shame factors, Albright should have realized that while millions along the centuries have managed to hide, deny and indeed extinguish their Jewishness, when it came to the kind of prominence she has now reached, her many predecessors didn't even attempt to hide their roots; when it comes to power, talent and publicity, they knew, the Jew in you would ultimately show.

Such were, for instance, Walter Rathenau, the Weimar Republic foreign minister who, though a firm believer in assimilation, made no secret of his origins and even began learning Hebrew, shortly before he was assassinated by nationalists who doubted his patriotism; or Benjamin Disraeli, who

was compelled to be baptized in order to pave the way for the illustrious political career he ultimately had, but even so proudly sported his Jewish identity; or French prime minister Leon Blum, who not only took pride in his Jewishness but in fact declared himself a Zionist.

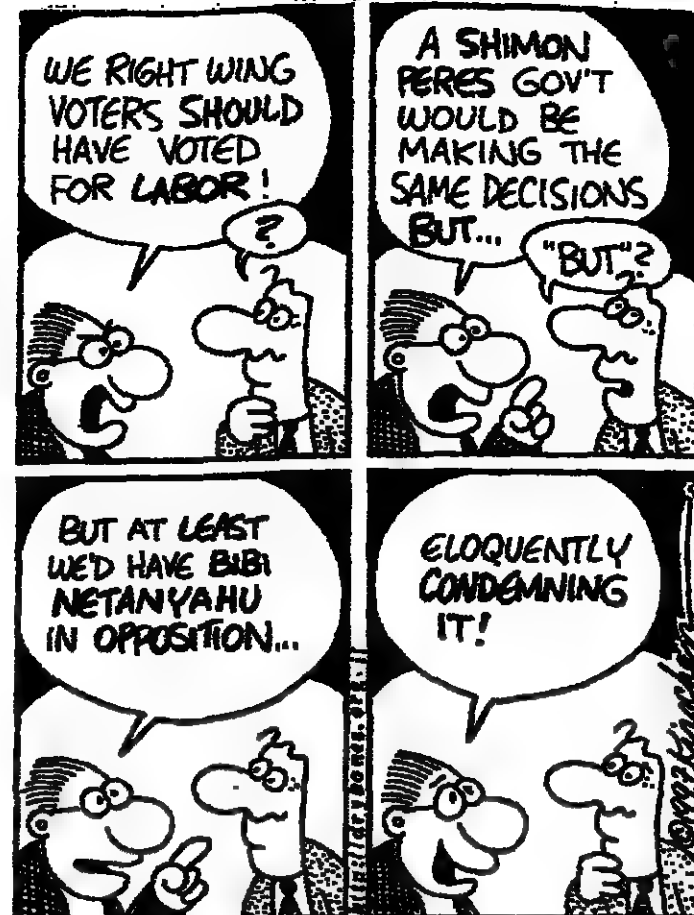
In the US, to be sure, politicians were never assassinated for their Jewishness, nor expected to be baptized in order to assume federal office. And the religious-ethnic tolerance which America's founding fathers have so successfully nurtured has over the past two centuries permeated entire continents.

There is, of course, the exception of various Middle Eastern regimes which, for instance, nonchalantly shelter such a Nazi criminal as Alois Brunner — friend, colleague and mentor of those who killed Secretary Albright's grandparents.

Indeed, in this part of the world, where Jews are still widely viewed through the same binoculars, depicted with the same brushes, and stained with the same political ink as those used by Goebbels, Albright would be right to feel uneasy about her newly discovered roots.

After all, Madeleine, for those of Israel's neighbors who foam at the mouth at the sight of a dead Jewish child in a bombed-out bus stop in Tel Aviv or a leveled Jewish center in Buenos Aires, no matter what you say, think, feel or do — you never ceased to be, and always will remain, one of us.

## Dry Bones



## FUNDS



## A few words of thanks

By REVEREE BLACK

We would like to share with our readers two thank-you letters which express the appreciation and effectiveness of your donations.

"Many thanks for the beautiful collection of toys you sent to the Association for Community Development. They are admired by all. The children of Acre will benefit considerably from the many hours of playtime donated so generously by The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund."

Our early childhood programs including the Kar-Gan, pre-kindergarten program and the Yed B'Yad home-visiting program will bring the toys into the lives of many disadvantaged Arab and Caucasian immigrant children who otherwise might never have the opportunity to enjoy the toys that their fellow Israeli peers play with every day.

Please relay our gratitude to all individuals who assist the Toy Fund to provide needed and much-loved toys to needy programs all over Israel.

The second letter is from the Center for the Advancement of the Blind in Safed which was recently robbed of all its equipment. The Toy Fund sent money to help replace some of the musical instruments.

"We cannot adequately express to you how moved we all are at your gracious response to our recent loss. How nice of you to show you care! Your generosity will help us to recoup our loss and will make it possible for us to continue in our endeavors to rehabilitate and raise the quality of life of the blind and visually impaired of all ages who come to our Center for innovative help. People like you make our work possible."

Words of thanks are hardly enough to say to you how good you make us feel by your kindness. Our appreciation is overwhelming and we trust that these words of gratitude which come from our hearts enter into your heart.

What more can we say, except to keep your donations coming. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits, can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

## FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 500 in memory of my dear parents, Sander and Chana Hinitz - Rivka Hinitz, Kfar Yisro.

NIS 250 Max Ben Moshe, Nahariya, Anon, Tel Aviv.

NIS 200 Sol Sherman, J'm. Tally Helfgot, Tel Aviv.

NIS 180 in loving memory of my mother-in-law, J.S. - Anon, J'm.

NIS 150 Yona and Yocheved Robin, Eilat, L. and D., Haifa, Anon., Nahariya.

NIS 100 The 6 Moskatoers, Kfar Sava.

NIS 100 in memory of my mother's birthday on February 18 - Anon. In honor of Mrs. M. Spira's birthday - Esther Sneider Cohen, Haifa, Jeremy Kroff, M.D., J'm. In loving memory of my dear husband, Morris, on his eighth yahrzeit, February 19 - Helen Mann, Herzliya. Congratulations to Drs. Naomi and Gilead Rosenberg on the birth of their third son - Fritz and Rita

Robinson, Tel Aviv.

NIS 50 in loving memory of our wonderful granddaughter, Naomi, on her second yahrzeit - Ruth and Herman Cohen, J'm. Sarah Cern, Ra'anana, Fern Allen, in honor of Alan, Yael, Keren and Ariel Groner, Lincolnwood, IL - Yehudi Black, Netanya.

NIS 36 in loving memory of my dear parents, husband and relatives - T. Fleishman, Netanya.

NIS 30 Aliza Rabinovitz, Rehovot.

NIS 25 Anon., Haifa.

NIS 10 E. Rosenfeld, Netanya.

\$110.70 Messianic Hebrew Christian Fellowship, Inc., Harrisburg, PA.

\$54 in memory of my parents, Sylvia and Yeha Barak - Milla and Leon Levy, Mount Laurel, NJ.

\$50 in memory of John Catanzaro - Jacob Sperman, Brooklyn, NY. Baruch Kolhof, Netherlands.

\$36 Anon., No. Beltsville, NY.

\$30 in honor of my daughter and granddaughter, Clio and Angie - Sylvia Warner, Campo, CA.

\$25 E.W. and Helena Woodham, Newport, AR. Alan Myers, Portland OR. In memory of Samuel Mitzner - Myra Mitzner, Staten Island, NY. Eleanor and Nathan Kaplan, Pittsfield, MA.

\$18 On the occasion of my wife Mickey's recent birthday - Irving Sonenshine, Charleston, SC. In memory of my wife, Tola, for whom a conference room was dedicated at the Gasher Center, Jerusalem - Daniel Wiener, Woodmere, NY.

\$15 R. Asher, Winnipeg, Canada.

\$5 Debra Childers, Yankinville, NC.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 2,939	NIS 19,031
\$486.70	\$8,648

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NIS 1,000 A small contribution for my past transgressions - Tirza Tannous, Ramat Yosef.

NIS 250 Dvora Moss, Ramat Gan.

NIS 100 in memory of the 73 fallen soldiers - Anon., Givat Shmuel.

NIS 80 A. Nurick, Kachav Yair.

NIS 50 in loving memory of our wonderful granddaughter, Naomi, on her second yahrzeit - Ruth and Herman Cohen, J'm. In honor of Alan, Yael, Keren and Ariel Groner, Lincolnwood, IL - Yehudi Black, Netanya.

\$100 in loving memory of my husband, Eli - Hannah Tal, Berkeley, CA.

\$50 in honor of our grandchildren, Jason, Adam, David, Aaron, Shvuy, Avi Dovi, Shira, Dassi, Shaiav and Yocheved - Louise Leibman, Merion Station, PA. In honor of grandchildren, Evan, Leora and Jonah - Myra Mitzner, Staten Island, NY. Happy Birthday George, Uncle Carl and Auntie - Carl and Selma Mancera, Tappan, NY. Baruch Kolhof, Netherlands.

\$25 Eleanor and Nathan Kaplan, Pittsfield, MA.

\$18 In honor of the birth of my great-granddaughter, Avigayil Tova, to my grandchildren, Ezra and Adina Wiener - Daniel Wiener, Woodmere, NY. In honor of the bat mitzva of my granddaughter, Michael Dvora Wiener - Daniel Wiener, Woodmere, NY.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 1,530	NIS 11,197
\$361	\$5,479

## WELCOME HOME FUND

NIS 50 in memory of Alan, Yael, Keren and Ariel Groner, Lincolnwood, IL - Yehudi Black, Netanya.

NIS 20 in memory of Abe - Anon.

NIS 10 Anon.

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\$25 Eleanor and Nathan Kaplan, Pittsfield, MA. In memory of Samuel Mitzner - Myra Mitzner, Staten Island, NY.

\$20 Angela Hoffman, Cape Coral, FL.

\$18 Anon., Hartford, CT. In honor of the marriage of my granddaughter Debra Nili to Adiel Levin - Daniel Wiener, Woodmere, NY.

New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 80	NIS 3,464
\$156	\$2,524

## A VIEW FROM NOV



By MORRIS KOHN

'Enough is enough.' Thus James A. Bill, professor of government, and director of international studies at the venerable College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, and Prof. Robert Springborg of Macquarie University, Sydney Australia, coauthors of *Politics in the Middle East* (hereafter referred to as *B/S*), have written to my editor concerning my two columns of criticism of their book (December 6 and January 17). I discussed a few of the large number of sins of commission and omission in the book's 74-page chapter 7 on "The Arab-Israeli Connection."

Indeed, "Enough is enough," I say to Bill and Springborg and to those who approve of the book's use as a textbook, rather than as a specimen of specious pro-Palestinian historiography.

The authors challenge my assertion that they rely "almost exclusively on radical left, post-Zionist, anti-Zionist, anti-Israeli, Jewish, Arab and other sources." They say they "attempted to draw upon as wide a variety of literature as possible," and boast that in chapter 7, "which focuses on the state and nation-building efforts of Israelis and Palestinians, there are more

than twice as many citations to Israeli or Jewish writers than there are to Palestinian authors."

"Wide variety": Indeed, the initial letters of the surnames of those *B/S* cites range from "A," as in Ibrahim and Janet Abu-Lughod, two veteran and distinguished pro-Arab propagandists, through "H," as in Theodore Herzl, who is quoted mainly to show the allegedly imperialist nature of Zionism, "M," as in Benny Morris, a leading Israeli "post-Zionist" revisionist historian, to "W," as in Chaim Weizmann, who, somewhat like Herzl, is quoted to show Zionism's alleged blindness due to superciliousness.

In between we have "B," as in Leumi Brenner, Mordechai Bar-On, and Meron Benvenisti; "E," as in Norman Finkelstein and Simha Flapan; "H," as in Yehoshafat Harkabi and Leon Hadar; "K," as in Perez Kidron; "M," for Joan Mandell of MERIP (a New Left enthusiastic supporter of Fatah's "Revolution Until Victory" idea); "R," as in Maxine Rodinson; "S," as in Tom Segev and Avi Shlaim.

These are all Israeli or Diaspora Jews who do, indeed, represent variety — a variety of styles and degrees of bashing a Zionism and an Israel guided by any idea or personality to the right of Meretz. For some, even Meretz is too orthodox.

To add to the variety, *B/S* gives us Arabs (Muslim and Christian, and perhaps secular) and other non-Jews, also with surnames in a fairly wide range of initial letters,

though they are rather monochromatic in their hostility to Israel.

They range from "A" for the above-mentioned Abu-Lughod and also Baha Abu-Laban, through "C" for Erika Childers and Andrew and Leslie Cockburn, through "K" for Rashid Khalidi, to "S" for Edward Said, who considers Yasser Arafat to have sold out to the Zionists, and Rajah Shebadeh.

The variety includes many more non-Jews and Jews, Arabs and others, from Israel and elsewhere — ranging from just plain vicious slanderers to those who claim to be concerned for Israel's soul and out to save us from ourselves. *B/S* quote them dozens of times, mainly to show Zionism as a Western imperialist-colonialist agent and Israel as an alien, virtually criminal transplant in this region.

On the other hand, *B/S* does, indeed, also quote David Ben-Gurion, Weizmann, Herzl, Yehuda Leib Finkler, Moses Hess, Aaron S. Kilemin, Eli Kedourie, Walter Laqueur, Barry Rubin, Emmanuel Gurtman, Nadav Safran, Itamar Rabinovich, Yitzhak Shamir, Shabtai Tsveth, and a few others. They quote a few of these in a relatively neutral way, but most in order to illustrate Zionism's and Israel's alleged nefarious intentions and deeds on behalf of Western imperialism.

Bill and Springborg argue that "there are more than twice as many citations to Israeli or Jewish writers than there are to Palestinian authors." That may be; but most of

those citations are of the sort that "Palestinians," too, can and do cite in support of their anti-Zionist, anti-Israeli canards.

The professors say I wrote of the "bloodthirsty declarations of most Arabs." I said no such thing. I did write of "the well-documented bloodthirsty anti-Jewish declarations of most Arab, including 'Palestinian,' spokesmen" of the 1948 period, when the armies of five Arab states invaded newborn Israel.

*B/S* calls those invasions "military interventions... into the civil war... raging... between Jews and Palestinians." It quotes an early leading revisionist-historian, Simha Flapan, to the effect that the invasions were "not aimed at destroying the Jewish state [but were] intended to prevent [Jordan's] Hashemite King Abdullah from annexing the Arab part of Palestine..." Furthermore, both Abdullah and the others "were ready to consider an alliance with Israel to further their aspirations."

Some 6,000 Jews and I don't know how many Arabs lost their lives in this alleged anti-Abdullah action.

In out-of-context quotations from Ben-Gurion, taken from Flapan and that other notorious revisionist, Avi Shlaim, *B/S* purports to show that our acceptance of the 1947 UN partition proposal was not intended at long last to reestablish our national sovereignty under the best conditions avail-

able, but was only part of a "tactical move designed to pave the way for a military confrontation with the Palestinians."

Incidentally, in that period there was no people calling itself "Palestinian," certainly no such Arab people. Distinguished Arab spokesmen had only recently said as much to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry and to the UN.

BILL AND Springborg do not respond to other criticisms I made.

To deal with all the shortcomings of chapter 7 would require much, much more space than I may take here. But I will deal with just one more point in their letter.

Replying to my "altru [they] are 'Zionism-haters and Israel-bashers,'" they inform us that they "have both lectured widely in Israeli universities," that Bill has brought a number of Israeli scholars to Williams and Mary, "and that at his urging" W & M sponsored a lecture and luncheon for Israel's then-ambassador, Itamar Rabinovich. What is more, "at least two Israeli courses" *B/S* has been "the principal required reading."

What have Bill's and W & M's hospitality and his and Springborg's travels to do with the quality of the book? The book's use here is a demerit for those using or recommending it.

I am sorry to read that it is scheduled to "soon appear in its fifth edition."

Enough is enough!

## The love to face each other

piece of sculpture in the form of two cherubs in both sacred places, the Sanctuary as well as the Holy Temple.

A miracle, or Divine intervention, was involved in the direction in which the cherubs faced; whenever the Israelites acted in accordance with the Divine Will, the cherubs would face each other and whenever the Israelites did not act in accordance with the Divine Will, the cherubs would face the Temple Wall.

The behavior of the nation Israel literally animated the sculptured cherubs.

Unfortunately, it was during the reign of King Solomon that the Israelites began to backslide. The Netziv (Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin, 1817-1893) has difficulty with the notion that the change in direction was determined by the Israelites' behavior; after all, King Solomon is pictured as having produced cherubs for the Temple which were specifically made facing the wall, differing from the cherubs which had been produced by Moses and Bezalel.

Hence the famed Rosh Yeshiva of Volozhin suggests that the Talmudic phrase "when Israel is doing the will of God" refers to the historical period of the desert Sanctuary, and "when Israel is not doing the will of God" refers to the historical period of Solomon's Temple. And this period of era description, insists the Netziv, harks back to the famous Talmudic debate between Rabbi Yishmael and Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai regarding the role of Torah study in our lives.

In Deuteronomy, the following verse appears: "I will give you rain for your land at the right season, the autumn rains and the spring rains, that you may gather in your grain" (Deuteronomy 11:14). The Sages ask why do you need the words "...so that you may gather in your grain?" Isn't that obvious? Rabbi Yishmael teaches that the verse in question comes to limit the command of God to Joshua: "This book of Torah shall not depart out of your mouth. You shall meditate therein by day and by night" (Joshua 1:8).

Since one could logically conclude that the Almighty is commanding us to devote all our time to Torah and no time at all to a worldly occupation, the seemingly superfluous phrase in Deuteronomy underscores the importance of a person "gathering his grain."

A person must do both: study Torah and be involved in worldly occupation, concludes Rabbi Yishmael.

Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai disagrees completely. "If a person is to plow in the plowing season, sow in the sowing season, reap in the reaping season, thresh in the threshing season... what is to become of Torah? But the fact is that when Israel does the will of God, the work of Israel will be done by others... and when Israel does not do the will of God, then they will have to break their own backs, as it says, 'so that you gather in your grain.'" [Babylonian Talmud, Berachot 35a].

The Netziv, in an ingenious fashion and very much in accord

with Lithuanian yeshiva ideology, links this dispute with the direction of the cherubs. We must remember that the desert generation had their nutritional needs taken care of by the manna, and their shelter needs taken care of by the succot (tabernacles) or Divine tents of glory; they lived a kind of primordial, communal existence, free to devote themselves completely to the study of Torah. They lived a life "doing the will of God" as understood by Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, and therefore the cherubs of Moses' desert sanctuary faced each other.

The period of the Holy Temple was one in which the Israelites had already entered the land of Israel and were deeply involved in the agricultural pursuits of extracting subsistence — and vital natural resources — from the land. They worked very hard, and even if they remained devoutly committed to God and to Torah, they were nevertheless in the Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai category of "not doing the will of God." Hence, the cherubs of King Solomon's Temple faced the wall.

The Netziv was the great Talmudic figure who headed the yeshiva of Volozhin. For him, the study of Torah was life and life was the study of Torah. It is no wonder that he would interpret "doing the will of God" as exclusive involvement in the study of Torah.

I would like to suggest a third interpretation of the Talmudic explanation of the cherubs' direction. It appears to me that "doing the will of God" refers neither to

the general actions of the Israelites nor to the periods of the desert or the Solomonic Kingdom respectively; it refers rather to the specific direction of the cherubs. The cherubs have the face of babies and the wings of birds; they symbolize humanity, the best of humanity, consisting of childlike naivete and angel-like capacity to reach upwards and fly to the Divine. When our most God-like people, interpreters or protectors of Torah (which the cherubs must be), face each other and express sensitivity towards each other, they must be viewed as "doing the will of heaven."

But when they only face the Temple and turn away from each other — even for the best of reasons, even for the sake of the Temple, even for the sake of Heaven — then they are "not doing the will of heaven." Moses understood this, and built a temporary Sanctuary so that "God could dwell in the midst of the people; his cherubs faced each other."

King Solomon did not sufficiently understand, so he built an imposing edifice but laid the groundwork for the disintegration of his nation; his cherubs faced the wall of the Temple, but not each other!

The cherubs have been interpreted in various ways, but one thing is clear: when two people face each other, when we love each other in a way that reflects the love of the Divine Presence for the nation of Israel, only then are we truly fulfilling the "will of God."

Shabbat Shalom



## GRAPEVINE

## A shining success

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

THE LONG arm of coincidence spans time and continents. When Miriam Frankel, director of development at Reuth, the Women's Social Service Organization dedicated to enabling members of the "Third Age" to live out their lives in dignity, read about the accolades being heaped on *Shine*, the story of Australian piano prodigy David Helfgott, her mind went back to her youth in Perth. She remembered going to the movies with Helfgott when she was 16, and wondered if he remembered her. He did, and he and his wife were delighted to learn that Reuth was having a benefit screening of the film.

Better still, Lynn Redgrave, who plays Helfgott's wife in the movie, is a Reuth supporter, and spoke to Frankel by phone from Los Angeles only minutes before the screening. Helfgott, she said, had been so pleased with the movie that he'd termed it the best thing since *Ben Hur*. She looked forward to his scheduled concert recital in Los Angeles on March 25. Several Australians in the audience at Jerusalem's Lev Smadar cinema were slightly peeved that the plot deviated somewhat from the truth. Nonetheless the consensus was that it's a great movie. Even the men got weepy.

LABOR LEADER Shimon Peres has a tendency for marrying his wit with overstatement. At a dinner hosted by billionaire industrialist

Shaul Eisenberg, chairman of the Council for the Promotion of Israel-China Relations, and Dan Propper, president of the Israel Manufacturers Association in honor of Chinese Vice Premier Li Langqing, Peres earned the appreciative laughter and applause of Li's large entourage of businessmen and journalists when he said, "Great Britain didn't come to Hong Kong to introduce democracy and China doesn't take over Hong Kong to spoil its prosperity."

But then, Peres who also happens to be CPICR honorary president, put his foot in his mouth by mentioning Taiwan. In a thinly disguised message to Middle East peace negotiators Peres said: "Even with Taiwan, China understands that it is better to be one country with two systems, than two countries with one system." The silence was so deadly that one could cut the air with a knife.

But Peres, to his credit, is adept at quick reversals, and earned himself another round of applause when he referred to a remark Li had made earlier. Li had attributed his special affinity for Israel to his school days. If a pupil did exceptionally well, the teacher gave him two triangles "like in the flag of Israel." If he did moderately well, he got one triangle, and if he did badly, he got a cross. Praising Li's address to the assembly of Israeli and Chinese business executives Peres said, "You can get two triangles, not a cross."

THERE WERE hardly any non-Russians at the opening of the

protest exhibition at Jerusalem's Artists' House by Moscow-born Vera Gutkina. A placard in one corner proclaimed "Support Russian Olin, not Russian Mafia." In a spoof on Habad's attempts to get Russian Jews onto the religious track, a plaque in a painting reads "Don't steal on Shabbat." Although in Israel for 15 years, the 43-year-old Gutkina is still angry about the ways in which many Soviet expatriates now living here are treated. That anger prompted her to found Sod, a non-profit organization for the protection of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Amongst the guests at the opening were Russian Ambassador Alexander Bovin, who had actually come to see a group exhibition, which opened concurrently at the same venue. The importance of cultural expression and pursuits in the lives of Russian immigrants was evidenced not only by the size of the crowd, but also by the number of press photographers representing most of the local Russian print media.

THE CAUSE is noble, but the sales pitch isn't. Rabbi Simcha Haasohen Kook, chief rabbi of Rehovot, Levi Yitzhak Bistritzki, chief rabbi of Safed, Haim Druckman, head of Yeshiva Or Ezyon, Azriel Oyerbach, renowned Talmudic commentator, and Moshe Yosef Mitzlik, head of the Jerusalem Rabbinical Court, are amongst some dozen highly respected rabbis who have joined forces to raise funds to support the family of a



Russian Ambassador Alexander Bovin was on hand for an exhibition at Jerusalem's Artists' House. (Vered Peltz/PPA)

great scholar who has suffered a serious heart attack.

Flyers bearing their endorsements have been put in mail-boxes around the country with requests for donations of NIS 180, NIS 360 and NIS 540 which are all multiples of 18 – the Hebrew for life. The notice states that a donor giving over NIS 180 will have his name mentioned in prayers at the Western Wall for 40 consecutive days. In addition, every 70 donors contributing NIS 180 will be included in a raffle for a silver havdala set.

Well, what about poor people who want to do a mitzva, but can't afford NIS 180? Don't they deserve to be mentioned in prayers? Their NIS 18 are worth much more than a rich man's NIS 1,800.

IT'S USUALLY very difficult to fluster Rabbi Menachem Porush, chairman of the Jerusalem branch

of Agudat Yisrael – but then it's not often that he gets a surprise visit from the Vizhnitzer Rebbe. Porush is currently celebrating half a century of community work for which he has received tributes from several luminaries from the rabbinic world, including, as of last week, Rabbi Moshe Hager. Given only minimal notice that the rebbe and several of his followers were on their way to his home, Porush acted with alacrity, summoning his sons and sons-in-law to join him in greeting the very special guest. One of his sons, Rabbi Meir Porush, who happens to be deputy minister for construction and housing, had to put affairs of state on hold because his father's honor took precedence.

THE KNESSET has a new spokesman, Gloria Porides. No stranger to the role, not to people in high places, Porides was formerly the spokesman for president Chaim Herzog. He was also briefly military adjutant to President Ezer Weizman and later Channel 2 ombudsman.

NOTWITHSTANDING rumors to the contrary, Candice Bergen will retain her *Murphy Brown* persona. The star of the popular television series this week signed a contract for yet another season – her 10th.

WHAT DO you give a keen basketball fan for his 42nd birthday? Kevin Costner got a dream present of a one-on-one contest with Magic Johnson.

No need to ask who won. But Johnson was in a generous mood and allowed Costner to score a few points.

Grapevine also appears every Wednesday.

## THE WEEK THAT WAS

## Bibi deprived of his day in the sun

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

By all accounts, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had a successful trip to Washington. But – oh, cruel fate! – he was deprived of even a brief round of media applause as other dramatic developments stumbled hard upon one another's heels.

Even on the day before his return, the media had cut short their plaudits to swing their spotlights onto the Shahal-Terner affair.

In these days of salacious tabloid journalism, what could be juicier than a Lolita tale of a police inspector-general and a student?

When Netanyahu arrived on Monday, the headlines already had forgotten his conquest of Washington and were harping instead on his upcoming testimony to police investigating the Bar-On affair.

Well, fair enough – it isn't every day a prime minister is questioned by police.

But since there was no suggestion Netanyahu was involved in the Bar-On shenanigans, the master of public relations had expected to give a good show and turn the questioning to his television-time advantage.

Alas, again, it was not to be so. The police finished their questioning of the first citizen late at night. By dawn the next day yet another new affair had burst upon the scene to capture the fickle attention of the media fireflies.

This time it was the dramatic resignation of Dan Avi-Yitzhak, the defense attorney of Aryeh Deri.

The bombshell hogged the air time, overshadowing even the looming Har Homa controversy, with its threats of Palestinian anger and a renewed coalition crisis.

Not only did Avi-Yitzhak resign, but he buried some well-aimed parting darts at Deri. He accused the Shas leader of slandering himself and his wife, and of telling "awful and libelous tales" to the police during his interrogation on the Deri/Bar-On affair.

The reason Deri told the police these terrible fibs, said Avi-Yitzhak in his resignation letter, was "my great sin" in objecting to your plan to appoint Roni Bar-On as Attorney-General.

Ah! This was why the media pounced. This was the first public confirmation that Deri had planned or acted in some way on the proposed appointment of Bar-On. This was something all parties questioned had so far denied – at least in earshot of the public.

However, Deri quickly pointed out that Avi-Yitzhak's charge did not link him to a deal on the Hebron agreement, nor to a plea bargain with Bar-On in Deri's criminal trial.

This was the essence of Channel 1's story that blew the affair open.

In any case, Deri summed up these new revelations as "all lies."

So far police have questioned 22 people, including the prime minister, two ministers, four MKs, seven lawyers and three Israel Broadcasting Authority people.

Who is telling the truth? Who is lying? What is the truth? Will we ever know?

As all too often in this country's public affairs, we are left with more questions and few answers, as we wait for the next crisis to blow the story away.

But, as a senior police source put it, "the stink coming from the scandal is now greater than ever."

## TRAP DOOR

"What's he up to now?" wondered Labor Party people when Netanyahu invited the opposition leaders to a briefing on cabinet plans for Jerusalem's Har Homa area.

The answer was straightforward. Threatened from his right by coalition partners who said they would quit unless he starts building in Har Homa, and faced with a Security Services warning of a new disaster, Netanyahu needed Labor's backing.

"Don't fall into the trap

Netanyahu is setting for you," Meretz leader Yossi Sarid cautioned Labor chairman Shimon Peres.

He said Labor should not support the cabinet's plan to build in the controversial spot.

"When the catastrophe comes, and come it will, they will have Labor and Peres to blame for it," said Sarid, "because Peres is always to blame."

Labor MKs guessed that by inviting them, Netanyahu was again signaling to extreme right-wingers threatening the coalition, that in the final analysis he really doesn't need them, because Labor and a national unity government are a constant option.

At the briefing session, Uzi Baram could not resist an "I told you so."

"A year ago you built your election campaign on the slogan 'Peres will divide Jerusalem.' We knew then it was a lie," he told Netanyahu.

"Have you realized yet that it was a lie when today when you call us to back your plans to build in Jerusalem?"



Uzi Baram: Likud accused us of dividing Jerusalem last year and now they call on us to back plans for building in the capital. (Pamim)

When the Laborites trooped out again, they said the prime minister decided nothing about Har Homa, so they felt no need to take a stand on the matter.

This was just as well, because had they been required to take a stand, the Laborites would have run into some cracks in their own party.

A day earlier, MKs Ehud Barak and Benjamin Ben-Eliezer had urged building in Har Homa without delay.

Yossi Beilin, Baram and others, while not disputing Israel's right to build there, thought the timing decidedly off.

Why sabotage the peace process and increase the danger of riots and violence when sovereignty over Jerusalem is not even at issue, they asked.

## WISDOM OF THE SAGES

The Ivory commission is still investigating the causes for the helicopter disaster near the Lebanese border which killed 73 soldiers.

In his wisdom, Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef already knows the answer.

During a condolence visit, Yosef told a bereaved family that the helicopter victims are "reincarnated souls who have finished atoning for their sins in a previous life."

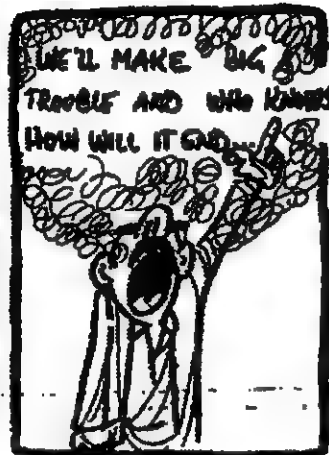
Some years ago, when several dozen schoolchildren were killed in a tragic bus accident at Habonim intersection, the then interior minister, Yitzhak Peretz, also of Shas, said they died because the mezuzot in their homes were faulty.

Sarid branded Yosef's statement "disgusting and outrageous" and called for him to be censured for trampling on the feelings of bereaved families in this way.

"If the deceased soldiers indeed were reincarnated souls who had finished atoning for their sins, then Yosef is a bad soul which hasn't even begun atoning for his sins yet," snapped Sarid.

The Association for the Freedom of Science, Religion and Culture reminded Yosef that reincarnations, incantations and election amulets are all alien to the spirit of Judaism and have no place in Israeli society.

## SRULIK



by DOSH

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

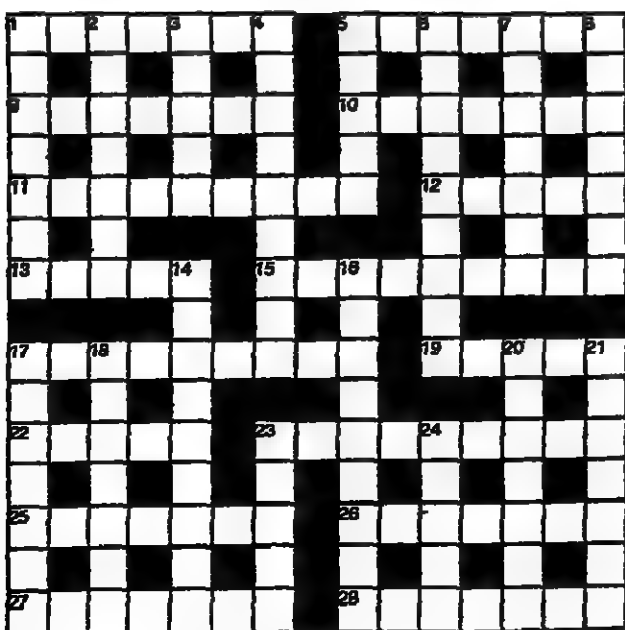
- 1 Expense for a garden-centre's apple (7)
- 5 Were all these early trains smokers? (7)
- 9 Declaring love by languishing (7)
- 10 In bed golf you find people constantly lifting their heads (7)
- 11 Stand for serving soldiers? (5-4)
- 12 Order of the shorter English dictionary (5)
- 13 Moral principle of the new Olympic finalists (5)
- 15 Turn-up paper said to leave no trace (9)
- 17 Frank depressed with girl out of control (9)
- 19 Ritual object encountered next to old books, to be read backwards (5)

- 22 Food for Dad's Army? (5)
- 23 Racist policy set aside to hide being different (9)
- 25 Dishing up, delivering game starter (7)
- 26 Very cold here in French headland (7)
- 27 Gifts of old money (7)
- 28 Thing that is put on in bed (7)

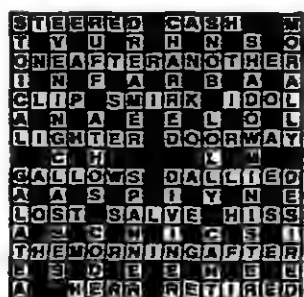
## DOWN

- 1 Gleeful sound—Carroll's first, right in foreign hotel? (7)
- 2 Spain dishes out cold and hot vegetable leaves (7)
- 3 A pick on the slant (5)
- 4 Boxer to consume chow, in ruthless competition? (3,3,3)

- 5 President needs good fortune and bottle (5)
- 6 Violet's home, for example, in river-grass (5-3)
- 7 Beethoven's second theme is heart-warming (7)
- 8 Tricky US lawyer giving some barristers hysterical (7)
- 14 Pink in motor-race (9)
- 16 Job in such a comedy? (9)
- 17 Part payment is put up in bus station (7)
- 18 Walter's turned out to be a prodigal (7)
- 20 Alice finally taken in by Mad Hatter for that reason (7)
- 21 Times do change for the dressmaker! (7)
- 23 Paper butterfly (5)
- 24 Preoccupation with spare key? (5)



## SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution  
ACROSS: 1 Widow, 4 Knight, 5 Baby's Bed, 10 Offhand, 11 Free, 12 Ego, 14 Plot, 15 Rich, 16 Jew, 21 Urdu, 23 Ashwari, 25 Charcot, 26 Drive, 27 Nasal, 28 Sneeze.  
DOWN: 1 Wisdom, 3 Durable, 5 Warranty, 4 Mail, 6 Ghoul, 7 Tested, 7 Crude, 13 Orthodox, 18 Chalice, 19 Vulcan, 19 Waste, 20 Athens, 22 Deep, 24 Pool.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 Rare gas (5)
- 4 Zero (5)
- 9 Brave (7)
- 10 Water vapour (5)
- 11 Soap froth (4)
- 12 Camelopard (7)
- 13 Hurry (3)
- 14 Continent (4)
- 16 Snake-like fishes (5)
- 18 Irrigate (3)
- 20 Late (7)
- 21 Leave out (4)
- 24 Italian composer (5)
- 25 Huntsman's call (5-2)
- 26 Conundrum (6)
- 27 Buoys (5)

- DOWN
- 1 Well-laden merchant-ship (6)
- 2 Ice cold (5)
- 3 Close (4)
- 5 Outlook (3)
- 6 Joyous (7)
- 7 Frame of mind (6)
- 8 The theatre (5)
- 13 Leaflet (3)
- 15 Bedabbed (7)
- 17 Former US president (6)
- 18 Breakwater (5)
- 19 Casual walk (6)
- 22 Civic head (5)
- 23 Asperities (4)

## 5 ONE-DAY TRIPS with Shorashim &amp; The Jerusalem Post Travel Club

Spend a day away-from-it-all on one of Shorashim's entertaining and enlightening English speaking trips. You'll meet your sort of people, visit off-the-beaten-track places and hear interesting and informative explanations from expert guides.

Space is limited so book early and avoid disappointment.

**Thursday March 6**  
**A DAY LIKE NO OTHER**  
Israel is not associated with heavy industry, and yet... This tour will visit the Haifa Bay, including the Oil Refineries, the Kili Aluminium Works, the shipyards, workshops and navy base, plus a boat tour of the bay. We bet you've never seen this part of Israel.  
NIS 190 (including lunch)  
Tour guide: Dr. Yoram Zohar

**Monday March 17**  
**LAND OF MILK AND HONEY**  
Cheese, honey, olive oil and wine – we'll taste them all on our way. We'll start at the organic dairy of Kili, and continue on to the olive oil press at the Druze village of Yama, then the prize-winning Dalton winery. We'll also visit the bee hives of Shadmot Dvora and its silk production unit. The Galilee is especially beautiful at this time of the year. Join us!  
NIS 215 (including lunch)  
Tour guide: Israel Shalev

**Monday March 17**  
**IRISES ARE BLOOMING IN GILBOA**  
Every year in March it happens. Irises cover Mt. Gilboa. They are the largest, most beautiful and colorful, and some are yellow. We'll visit Nahal Toot on the trail of Irises, the "Cyclamen Hill" of Gilad and Givat Hamaach. Lunch at Kibbutz Tzvi Zvi.  
NIS 185 (including lunch)  
Tour guide: Hagit Lechner

**Thursday April 3**  
**ACE – THE CRUSADER CITY**  
In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitaliers Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter – little Italy in the Holy Land, the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more.  
NIS 175  
Tour guide: Danny Syon

**Thursday April 24**  
**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SANHEDRIN**  
The Bar-Kochba Revolt failed. 600,000 Jews died. Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews were sold as slaves, and Tora study came to an end. But a new center arose in the Galilee, and the towns of Zippori and Tiberias became famous. We'll visit them, as well as Beit Shearim, the burial place of Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi and his family.  
NIS 215 (including lunch)

The low price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch is indicated, 10% off when you book all five tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.  
Reservations and further information:  
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Tel 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)  
Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

**Bay BLUE & WHITE and keep Israel IN THE PINK**

سنة ١٤١٨



הפלייבוקס

The Jerusalem  
deprived  
is day  
the sun

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday,  
February 21, 1997

13

## BITS & BYTES

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

### Decision Systems buys interest in Mofet

Data Systems Software Inc. has announced that its Decision Systems Israel Ltd. subsidiary has purchased shares in Mofet Venture Capital Fund Management Ltd. that it did not previously own, and resold a 25% interest to FIMI Holding Company Ltd. and a 25% interest to the Menorah Insurance Company Ltd. DSI will retain a 50% interest in Mofet.

Mofet is the manager of Mofet Israel Technology Fund Ltd., a publicly-held venture capital fund that has invested approximately \$18m. in 23 high-tech companies to date.

### Emulek, Motorola get \$1.1m. for joint project

Emulek Ltd. of Jerusalem and Motorola Inc. of Illinois recently announced that they have received a \$1.1m. allocation from the BIRD foundation, for a \$3m. joint development project.

Under the terms of the project, Emulek and Motorola's Corporate Software Center will work together to enhance the Emulek's "Rapid" tool for virtual prototyping. Rapid is a software tool that allows simulation development of interactive systems.

### ESC Medical to acquire Luxar

ESC Medical Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq: ESCMF) recently announced an agreement to acquire Luxar Corporation, a designer and manufacturer of surgical and cosmetic lasers, for an undisclosed sum.

Following the acquisition, which is to be completed within 30 days, Luxar will operate as a subsidiary of ESC Medical.

ESC develops medical devices for non-invasive treatment of varicose veins and other benign vascular lesions, as well as for hair removal, skin cancer treatment and skin rejuvenation processes.

### Nice Systems and IBS announce joint venture

Nice Systems (TASE: NICE 1), a provider of computer telephony integration solutions, and IBS Corp., a privately-held, San Francisco-based maker of data monitoring technologies, have announced recently that they have teamed together to provide a voice and data evaluation tool for the US call center market.

### Sapiens provides client/server to Poland

Sapiens International Corp. (Nasdaq: SPNSF) recently announced that its flagship product, Sapiens ObjectPool, is being used by Poland's bank to manage the privatization of the country's government-owned businesses.

The PKO BP bank is using ObjectPool to build an application involving the daily transfer of information from the bank's 49 regional servers to the bank's mainframe computer in Warsaw, thus centralizing the privatization process.

Sapiens develops client/server development tools and services for clients such as International Paper, the Israeli Air Force, Nissan and IBM.

### Siemens aborts plan for new company

Siemens AG, the German multinational that is headquartered in Munich, has decided not to establish a new company here to handle machinery sales, because it would require too great an investment.

Siemens's computer support and energy-related equipment will continue to be handled by Siemens Israel.

### Teledata authorizes secondary public offering

Teledata Communications (Nasdaq: TLDCF) recently announced that its board of directors has authorized a secondary public offering of the company's ordinary shares and has filed a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The company is expected to sell up to 1.1 million ordinary shares.

Meanwhile, Teledata announced that it received a \$5.2m. order for a repeat order from an undisclosed European customer.

The Herzliya-based company will supply the customer with its CTLOOP Pair Gain System, which enables telecom providers to connect 10 telephone lines over one copper-wire pair, increasing the number of customers that can be connected to the public network.

Deliveries will begin in the second quarter of this year and are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

### Real Vision in private placement deal

TVG Technologies Ltd. (Nasdaq: TVGTF) recently announced that its new subsidiary, Real Vision Ltd., signed an engagement letter with Oscar Gruss & Son Inc. to raise about \$4m. through a private placement of about 22% of the company.

Real Vision has developed a prototype of a 3D image generator. The product has civilian and military applications including training and simulation, 3D Internet services and navigation.

## Germany plans financial reform

BONN (Reuters) - Germany yesterday honed proposals for sweeping reforms aimed at boosting its status as a world financial center ahead of increased competition expected to accompany European monetary union.

The proposals, planned for implementation in 1998, are designed to tighten safeguards for investors, ease access to capital markets for smaller companies, and permit the use of a significantly wider range of financial products.

"Operating conditions on the German financial center are to be adapted to the challenges of the future to secure and improve Germany's international competitive position," the ministry said in a statement.

The reforms will cover the stock market, the investment industry, and laws on venture capital firms - areas in urgent need of change, given Germany's reputation for lax investor protection and excessive restrictions on market activity.

The impetus for reform has come in large part from the German financial industry itself, which fears that the disappearance of the mark under a single European currency will rob Germany of its key draw as an international center.

The ministry aims to make it easier for foreign firms to list in Germany, modify listing restrictions for new companies and extend the powers of the country's two-year-old markets watchdog in supervising prospectuses for share issues.

Companies may also be allowed to delist on demand from a regional bourse, a move which would probably lead to even stronger concentration of German listings in Frankfurt.

Bonn also wants to legalize a broader range of investment products to help woo risk-averse Germans into the equity market, such as by giving funds leeway to invest in swaps and options and allowing mixed property and equity funds.

Finally, the current restrictive conditions for venture capital firms are to be liberalized, for example by allowing such firms to take the form of a limited liability company and by giving them more flexibility on refinancing measures.

The first discussion paper on the reforms will be ready to go before parliament next month.

Final legislation will be passed in the form of the Third Financial Markets Promotion Law, which also covers issues such as creating a level playing field for other EU banks and securities houses in line with EU norms.

## 2 arrests in Migdal embezzlement case

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Jerusalem police are expected to question additional people in connection with alleged financial irregularities at the Migdal insurance company, a source close to the investigation said yesterday.

The head of collection at the branch, Yehiel Mandelbaum, is being questioned over irregularities in his department resulting in a shortfall of as much as NIS 2 million.

The shortfall was discovered two weeks ago during a routine internal audit of the branch. In reaction to the findings, Migdal hired a private investigation firm, which found that hundreds of thousands of shekels - apparently money skimmed off premium deposits - were missing from the branch. Department head Mandelbaum, 38, joined the company four years ago.

Four days ago, Mandelbaum was summoned to Migdal's head office in Tel Aviv to

explain the missing money, but failed to show up. He also failed to arrive at work in the Jerusalem branch and was missing from home, and on Wednesday the company notified the police. Yesterday, according to the *Ma'ariv* daily, Mandelbaum showed up in his home in Jerusalem and was arrested shortly afterwards.

Mandelbaum reportedly told the police he was being blackmailed by Binyamin Retzikovsky, 48, manager of the Shir-Dan insurance agency, which works with Migdal, according to *Ma'ariv*. Retzikovsky denied the allegation, saying Mandelbaum chose to pay him an undisclosed sum of money "out of his own free will."

Retzikovsky, also held for questioning, reportedly told police the money Mandelbaum paid him was a bribe so that he would not reveal his knowledge of Mandelbaum's embezzlement. Retzikovsky said he had spent all of the money.

Migdal said it has insurance coverage for events of this kind. "From the moment we transferred the case to the police it is out of our hands," a company spokesman said. "We are currently waiting for the police to reach their conclusions."

Bank Leumi recently sold control of Migdal, one of the country's biggest insurance companies, to leading Italian insurer Generali, in accordance with the newly revised restrictions of the Banking Law on the banks' ownership of non-financial holdings.

The insurance firm completed the first nine months of 1996 with a net profit of NIS 81 million, compared with NIS 75m. in the corresponding period last year. The Migdal group consists of five insurance companies: Migdal, Hamagen, Shimshon, Maoz, and Sela. The group also owns insurance agencies and financial companies.

Mandelbaum's father, Moshe, was Bank of Israel governor in the early 1980s.

## Meridor: Cancel anti-strike decrees

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The cabinet is expected to rescind in its weekly meeting today the emergency decrees it issued in December, when it sought to stem what seemed to be a rising tide of labor unrest.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor

yesterday said he intends to ask the cabinet to approve his proposal to lift the decrees, since their original pretext - concern for the supply and provision of basic goods and services to the public - is no longer valid.

Meridor said in a statement he wishes to remind the public that

the decrees were passed against a backdrop of a Histadrut-led general strike, which aimed to bring to a standstill basic functions across the economy.

The law allows the government to meet the needs of such a situation by imposing emergency decrees, under which strikers must return to their jobs. Such decrees expire within three months of their imposition, unless annulled prior to that.

However, should the need for such measures reappear following renewed labor unrest, the

government would consider reimposing the emergency decrees, the Treasury statement said.

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Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
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Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.825	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				
Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (20.2.97)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS				
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Currency basket	3.6044	3.6828	3.59	3.686
U.S. dollar	3.3157	3.3723	3.29	3.3510
German mark	1.9380	1.9588	1.93	1.9591
Pound sterling	5.3438	5.4227	5.29	5.3923
French franc	0.5823	0.5917	0.57	0.5878
Japanese yen (100)	2.8536	2.7271	2.83	2.7115
Dutch guilder	1.7524	1.7807	1.72	1.7578
Swiss franc	2.2476	2.2838	2.20	2.2559
Swedish krona	0.4471	0.4544	0.43	0.4513
Norwegian krone	0.4940	0.5020	0.48	0.4982
Danish krone	0.5158	0.5240	0.50	0.5201
Finnish mark	0.5811	0.5978	0.54	0.5878
Canadian dollar	2.4414	2.4808	2.39	2.4882
Australian dollar	2.5548	2.5959	2.51	2.5904
S. African rand	0.7415	0.7535	0.67	0.7482
Belgian franc (10)	0.9531	0.9695	0.93	0.9618
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7962	2.8414	2.74	2.8206
Italian lira (1000)	1.0772	2.0091	1.04	1.9979
Jordanian dinar	4.9203	4.9400	4.89	4.7782
Egyptian pound	0.9400	1.0500	0.84	1.0221
ED	3.8147	3.8753		3.8478
Irish punt	3.2121	3.2962	3.12	3.2504
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2930	2.3581	2.28	2.3495
*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.				
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**REHAVIA, OUTSTANDING 5 room**, quiet, 161 sq.m., recent building, luxury finish, elevator, parking, SHIRAN EXCLUSIVE through ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE - 19 King David St. Tel. 02-623-5535.

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**CAPITAL 02-679-4911, TALBIH**, magnificent penthouse, superb views, luxury finish, preserved building, elevator, private underground parking.

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**TALBIH, LUXURIOUS**, 4, air conditioning, Jacuzzi, 3 exposures, large balcony. Tel. 02-561-8412, 02-625-1042.

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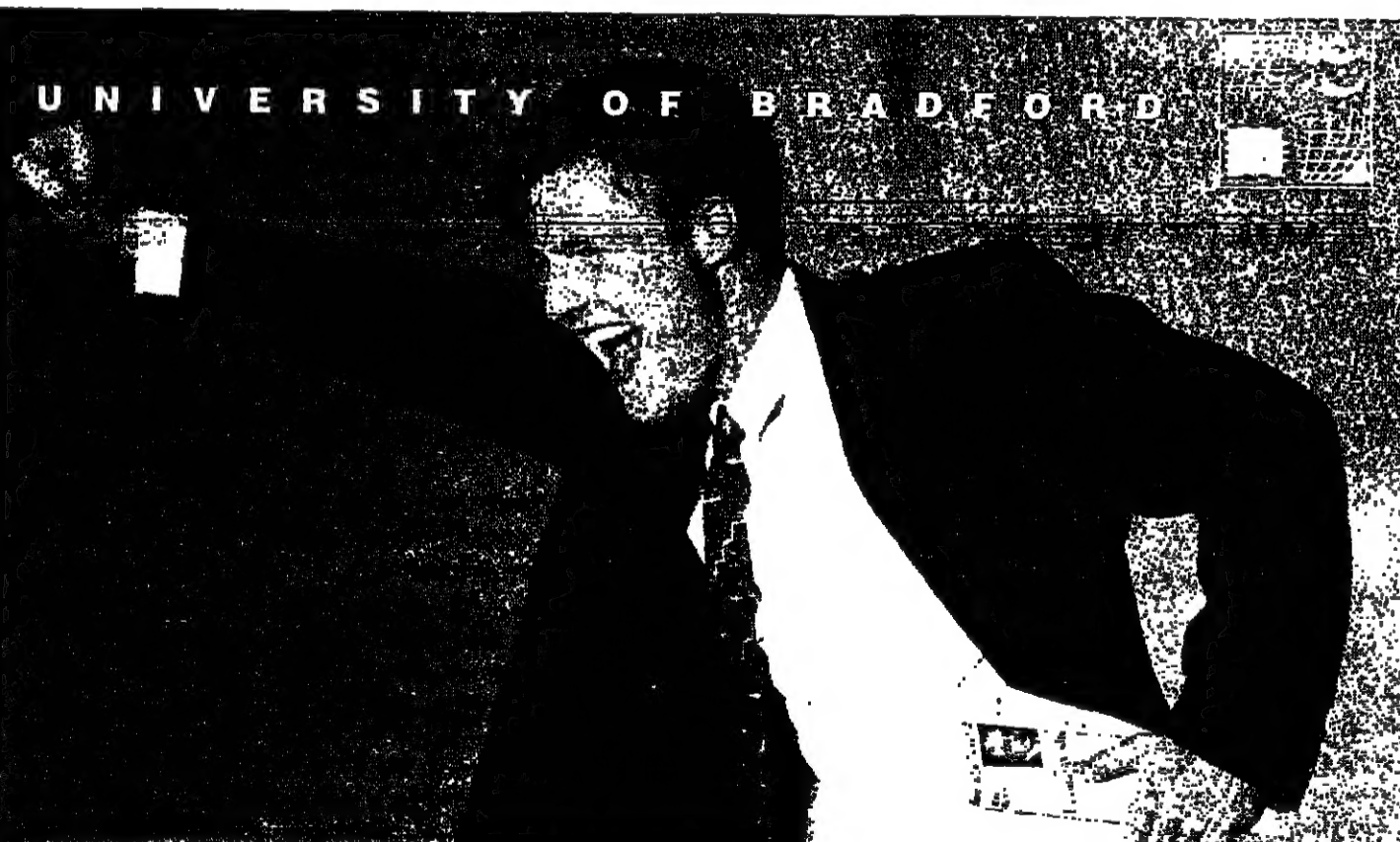
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Jordanian King Hussein's personal pilot, Captain Taghrid Akasheh, meets with Airports Authority officials this week. Akasheh, who is also the vice-president of Royal Jordanian Airlines, came here to discuss technical arrangements for Royal Wings, the Royal Jordanian subsidiary flying to Israel. She met with Avi Kastelitz, chairman of the Airports Authority board, Ya'acov Dayan, deputy director-general for finance, and Yehiel Amital, director of international relations. She was accompanied by Shawiki Abu Ghazaleh, Royal Jordanian's Israel area manager.

(From Haim Shapiro; Photos: Shaul Rahamim)

## Kahalani: I'm straight as an arrow

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani yesterday denied reports he had wiretapped rival Ronni Milo during the 1993 Tel Aviv mayoral campaign. "It never happened," Kahalani told reporters at a National Traffic Police conference in Bat Yam. "I'm as straight as an arrow, and that's how I've always been. Last night I slept like a baby. I observe the law and serve as an example in this respect."

Kahalani also denied that any formal probe of the alleged incident was taking place. "There is no investigation," he said. "Somebody said something, the police checked it out, and that's how it ended, that's all. I never wiretapped anybody; I'm an honest man, a decent man. I obey

the law and anybody who wants to can inspect me 360 degrees all around and won't find anything."

Asked whether he would be able to continue to function as minister if an investigation takes place, Kahalani replied: "There is an attorney-general. I'm the same as any other citizen in the State of Israel. I've got no problem."

"I'm not stuck to my seat, and I won't be stuck to my seat, and I hereby announce there is nothing. Somebody is trying to revive something that died a long time ago. There was once a police investigation; they questioned me and it was all over. They announced unequivocally that there was nothing to it. There was nothing. The best investigators in the State of Israel checked it out."

## Eitan slams Ben-Yair

Former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair is a "fool," who pursued indictments on only one side of the political map to scuttle certain political careers and protect others, Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan said yesterday.

Eitan was acquitted on Wednesday of charges he had violated the Privacy Protection Law when he accepted information culled from an IDF database and allegedly used it to force an activist out of the party.

At a press conference yesterday, Eitan called for a reevaluation of the powers given to the attorney-general.

Ben-Yair said Eitan's remarks were not worthy of a response.

## TUG OF WAR

Continued from Page 7

structed in the first stage of development.

THIS WEEK, the site, at least the ridges overlooking the site, resembled Hebron before redeployment - full of various groups, parliamentarians and journalists, gone to take a first-hand look at what all the fuss is about. On Monday, Communications Minister Limor Livnat went there. On Tuesday it was Peace Now's turn, and then Yisrael Ba'Aliya. On Wednesday the Land of Israel Front. Each day a different delegation, followed by - literally - dozens of journalists. Like the Shmida Street in Hebron, Har Homa went overnight from anonymity to what seemed like the center of the universe.

Where Har Homa is located is, in itself, very much in the eye of the beholder. When Peace Now brought a delegation to view the hill, Har Homa was described as being between the east Jerusalem village of Umm Tuba and the Palestinian town of Beit Sabur. Peace Now chose to show the hill from an Umm Tuba rooftop - an effort to stress the Palestinian nature of the area.

When the Land of Israel Front was looking at the hill, they were told it sits between Ramat Rahel and Gilo, and is the last link in the chain of new neighborhoods that have gone up around Jerusalem since the Six Day War in an attempt to create Fortress Jerusalem. The MKs were shown the hill from a ridge not far from Gilo - making the hill seem a logical extension of Jewish Jerusalem.

Peace Now activist Tzali Reshef said the neighborhood would be an unnatural incursion into an obviously Palestinian area. National Religious Party MK Hanan Porat said it is part of Jerusalem, and that if Jerusalem will not reach out to Har Homa, Bethlehem - meaning the

Palestinian Authority - will eventually intrude on the capital.

"Wherever there is territorial continuity," said Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Yehi Stern, who visited the site with the Land of Israel Front, "a border will not run" - the exact reason why the Front is so keen on seeing development begin, and the exact reason why the Palestinian leadership are so keen in putting it off.

"Facts are being established on the ground," Stern said. "What we don't do today because we are afraid, will be that much more difficult to do tomorrow, when the Palestinians have control of even more territory."

Stern said that the Palestinians are doing everything they can to create areas of territorial continuity in the territories, and that Israel should do the same in Greater Jerusalem. Not only will Har Homa link the city's southernmost areas to other Jewish neighborhoods in the capital, but it will prevent the Palestinian villages in the autonomous area from being able to link up with east Jerusalem villages.

According to Stern, a decision to build would not contravene the Oslo accords, since nowhere in the accords does it say Israel cannot build in its capital.

Husseini said, on the other hand, the Oslo accord does prohibit unilateral acts that could prejudice final-status talks on Jerusalem.

It is indeed the unilateral nature of the decision to build which is so infuriating to the Palestinians, and to opponents of the neighborhood. They say that the Oslo process, and the fact that the status of Jerusalem will be negotiated, means that Israel can no longer do as it wishes in the city. "As long as we have decided that Jerusalem's final status will be determined together," said Peace Now political secretary Mossy Raz, "we cannot just make decisions alone. We have to decide these issues together."

But to the Right, words like these mean that Israel has already given up sovereignty over an undivided Jerusalem, even before

final-status talks have begun. Even talking about what to do on Har Homa, be it with the Palestinians or even with the Americans, is viewed by some as an encroachment on total Israeli control of the city. "We don't tell the Americans that they do or don't have the right to build in south Washington DC," Kleiner said. "They have no right to tell us where to build in Jerusalem."

LURKING not far behind all the talk about building the neighborhood is the fear that construction will lead to a round of violence that would dwarf the riots that followed the September opening of the new exit to the Western Wall tunnel. "If the government takes such a provocative step, at such a delicate time, it may well lead to serious consequences," Peace Now's Reshef said. "I warn the government that there are elements on the other side liable to use what happens here for things other than demonstrations, and I suggest taking into consideration all these scenarios."

General Security Service head Ami Ayalon was more direct, and in a meeting with the coalition reportedly said that building the neighborhood will cause "serious riots."

No matter, said Kleiner, who likened a decision not to build because of a fear of confrontation to giving in to terrorist demands, that inevitably only fuel more terrorist demands. "It is a matter of principle," he said. "We are here. If we give in to threats over Jerusalem today, then tomorrow it will be Nazareth, and the next day Ramle. Everyday the demands will get more outrageous. This is no different from a policy not to give in to terrorists."

The price of Har Homa, Kleiner said, need not be the loss of lives. "Arafat is smart enough to know that this time, unlike September, he will not catch us by surprise. He will think eight times about doing something, because if he does, he will stand to lose everything that he has gained."

So too, said Reshef, will Israel.

## Mister Prime Minister:

# Har Homa - Vital to the unity and integrity of Jerusalem

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KEEPING THE MOMENTUM — England's Alec Stewart plays off his pads in his 81 against New Zealand.

## England cruises to limited-overs victory

CHRISTCHURCH (Reuters) — A classy, controlled partnership of 170 between Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe carried England to a four-wicket win over New Zealand in yesterday's opening one-day international.

England left-arm spinner and man-of-the-match Phil Tufnell had earlier bounced back from an off-field controversy to do the damage to New Zealand, claiming four for 22 from 10 overs, his best one-day international figures.

Earlier this week, England manager John Barclay rejected allegations by staff at a Christchurch restaurant that Tufnell and two companions had smoked cannabis in a toilet there.

Chasing New Zealand's inadequate 222 for six, England had a brief hiccup when it lost two wickets at 28, before Stewart and Thorpe took charge, adding 170 in 156 minutes off 207 balls and often toying with the New Zealand bowlers.

England had a late scare when three wickets fell in 19 balls for the addition of nine runs, but got through to 226 for six, with seven balls to spare.

Nasser Hussain was unbeaten on 11, while Robert Croft, eased a tricky late situation for England by thumping his first two balls through the offside to the fence to secure the victory.

Having won the second and third tests of their series, England carried on from where it left off on Tuesday and had New Zealand's measure from early in the day.

New Zealand's batting struggled after a bright start while the bowling lacked discipline and penetration.

After England captain Mike Atherton got his team off to a snappy start with three early boundaries, New Zealand struck back with two wickets in three balls.

Atherton played inside a straight ball from off-spinner Dipak Patel and was bowled for 19, then fellow opener Nick Knight edged Simon Doull to wicketkeeper Lee Gernon.

But Stewart and Thorpe settled quickly into their work.

The England 50 arrived in the 12th over and Stewart took boundaries in consecutive deliveries from Nathan Astle before clubbing the first ball from medium-pace Chris Cairns into the stand at long.

Stewart took England to 100 with two fours in three balls from Cairns and at the halfway stage the team was 14 runs and one wicket better off than New Zealand at 117 for two.

England needed 90 in the last 10 overs, but both batsmen were then out in the eighties, in quick suc-

cession, to fast bowler Heath Davis.

Garvin Larsen and Davis restricted England near the end, 14 runs being needed off the last five overs, and six off the last two when Davis had Dominic Cork caught at mid-wicket off a full toss.

Croft then ended New Zealand's hopes of an improbable victory with two fours in succession.

**New Zealand innings**  
B. YOUNG c Thorpe b Mully 14  
N. ASTLE c Thorpe b Tufnell 20  
A. PARORE c and b Tufnell 28  
S. FLEMING c Stewart b Tufnell 34  
C. CAIRNS c Mully b Tufnell 15  
C. GARNER not out 48  
D. GERNON not out 19  
L. GERNON c Cork 11  
D. PATTEL not out 15  
Extras (NB, 2nd, 4th) 15  
TOTAL 222 for six wickets  
Fall of wickets: 24, 87, 100, 134, 148, 203.  
Bowling: Dominic Cork 9-0-28-1 (1rb, 2w), Alan Mully 5-2-21-1, Robert Croft 10-1-14-0 (1w), Darren Gough 10-4-5-0 (1w), Phil Tufnell 10-1-22-4, Graham Thorpe 9-0-35-0 (1w).  
Overs: 50.

**England innings**  
N. HUGHES c and b Doull 9  
M. ATHERTON b Patel 21  
A. STEWART c Astle b Davis 81  
G. THORPE c Davis 82  
N. HUSSAIN not out 11  
D. CROFT c Young b Davis 5  
D. CROFT not out 12  
Extras (NB, 2nd, 4th) 15  
TOTAL 226 for six wickets  
Fall of wickets: 28, 29, 100, 134, 203, 214.  
Bowling: Simon Doull 10-0-32-2 (1w), Heath Davis 10-4-5-0 (1w), Nathan Astle 4-0-25-0 (1w), Chris Cairns 4-0-24-0 (1w), Lee Gernon 5-0-24-0 (1w), Phil Tufnell 10-1-22-4, Graham Thorpe 9-0-35-0 (1w).  
Overs: 48.5.  
Result: England won by four wickets.  
Man-of-the-match: Phil Tufnell (England).

## Senna manslaughter trial opens

IMOLA, Italy (Reuters) — Frederico Bendinelli, managing director of the Imola track, was the only defendant present on the opening day yesterday at the trial of six men charged with manslaughter over the death of Ayrton Senna.

Formula One team chief Frank Williams and five others have been accused of manslaughter after Brazilian three times world champion Senna died at the San Marino Grand Prix on May 1, 1994.

The defendants, who include Patrick Head, technical director of the Williams team and designer Adrian Newey, deny responsibility for the fatal crash.

Bendinelli said the circuit was not responsible for Senna's death. "I am completely calm and convinced that no responsibility will be laid at the circuit's door," he said.

After yesterday's session, the trial is due to be adjourned until February 28.

## NHL rocked by another sex-abuse scandal

TORONTO (AP) — Another sex-abuse scandal is jolting the ice hockey world in Canada, involving allegations that staff at Maple Leaf Gardens, one of the sport's hallowed sites, lured boys into sex with offers of free tickets and player autographs.

One alleged victim says he was part of a sex ring from 1975 to 1982 in which group sex took place in the back rooms of the building, sometimes during Toronto Maple Leafs games.

A former maintenance worker at the arena, Gordon Stickless, appeared in court Wednesday on charges of indecent assault and gross indecency and was ordered held pending a bail hearing next week. At least two other arena employees, one of them deceased, also allegedly were involved.

Stickless, 47, worked at the Gardens until the early 1990s as a backstage helper at concerts and hockey games.

Toronto police reported fielding dozens of calls from men who said they too were victims of sex abuse at the arena in the 1970s and 1980s.

"The phone's been ringing off the wall," said Detective Dave Tredrea. "It's been dozens and dozens, liter-

ally. Each one of these people will have to be interviewed."

The one complaint to come forward in public was Martin Kruse, 34, who says the abuse started when he was 13 in 1975 and continued until 1982.

It is the second major sex-abuse case this year to tarnish the image of Canada's national sport.

In January, a highly respected junior league coach, Graham James, was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison for repeated sexual abuse of two of his players over a period of years.

One of his victims was Sheldon Kennedy, now a forward with the Boston Bruins, who went public with his story of being abused more than 300 times by James.

Kruse first made his allegations in 1993 when he sued Maple Leaf Gardens. He settled out of court for about \$45,000, with the stipulation he not go public, but decided this month to come forward anyway.

Cliff Fletcher, president of the Gardens management company and general manager of the Maple Leafs, said police weren't notified in 1993 because an investigation by a private detective was incon-

## Toto mania grips country

By ORN LEWIS

Punters from all walks of life will be eagerly awaiting the final results of all 15 games on the Sportoto form as a record minimum jackpot of NIS 21 million awaits a lucky person (or people).

At first glance, it appears as if the prediction of all the results will be no easier than last week, when some surprising results caused this week's prize to be the largest ever. This has not deterred punters, however, as well over 30 million lines are expected by Sportoto, this compared to an average week when some six million lines are entered.

Toto stations were overflowing from yesterday morning and by last night it became a torrent as punters spent the evening trying to fill in their forms.

The highlighted game of the weekend is the Petah Tikva derby between host Maccabi and second-placed Hapoel, and as it is the last game of the weekend's program, many punters will be bitten away and many a pack of cigarettes will be smoked as the lucky few, who will have managed to correctly forecast the earlier games, will hope for this one to go their way as well.

This weekend's National League action has a lot of open games. Leaders Betar Jerusalem, which lost for the first time in the current campaign last weekend when they fell 1-0 at home to Hapoel Beersheba, travel to Maccabi Herzliya, where they will be out to reassert their challenge for the championship.

The Petah Tikva derby looks like an open affair too, and Hapoel, which failed to capitalize on Betar's loss

last week when the team also fell 2-1 at home to lowly Hapoel Beit She'an, will be up against it, needing to overcome the stiff challenge of Maccabi which will not want to lose two derbies in one season after going down by the lone goal last September.

Hapoel Beersheba hosts Toto Cup finalists Bnei Yehuda, and here, again, anything is possible. The Negev side will most certainly remain in third position regardless of all other results this weekend, but the team will be buoyed by its confident performance at Teddy Stadium last Saturday.

Bnei Yehuda will also feel it has something to prove following the Toto Cup semifinal win over Maccabi Tel Aviv in midweek, even if its chances of winning the league are all but non-existent.

Other unpredictable matches in the upper division appear to be in Rishon where Ironi hosts Hapoel Kfar Sava, at Teddy Stadium where Hapoel Jerusalem plays Hapoel Tel Aviv and at Beit She'an which will welcome another visit by faltering Maccabi Haifa.

More predictable appear to be the games between Maccabi Tel Aviv and Zefirion Holon and Hapoel Haifa, who are at home to listless Hapoel Taiba.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches tomorrow unless stated):  
Maccabi Tel Aviv v. Zefirion Holon, National Stadium Ramat Gan 18:00; Maccabi Herzliya v. Betar Jerusalem, Herzliya 18:00; Hapoel Beersheba v. Bnei Yehuda, Beersheba 18:00; Hapoel Haifa v. Hapoel Taiba, Kfar Eliezer 18:30; Maccabi Petah Tikva v. Hapoel Petah Tikva, Petah Tikva 17:45; Hapoel Beit She'an v. Maccabi Haifa, Beit She'an, today 14:30; Ironi Rishon LeZion v. Hapoel Kfar Sava, Rishon 14:30; Hapoel Jerusalem v. Hapoel Tel Aviv, Teddy Stadium 15:00.

## Wright in trouble again

LONDON (AP) — Arsenal striker Ian Wright just can't seem to stay out of trouble.

Wright, who has one of the worst disciplinary records in English soccer, faces a possible long suspension for his latest run-in with Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel.

Wright made a reckless two-footed lunge at the Danish keeper as they both raced for the ball near the edge of the penalty area in the 76th minute of United's 2-1 victory at Highbury on Wednesday night.

Wright, who had already picked up a yellow card, was lucky not to have been sent off. Neither the ref-

eree nor the linesman had a clear view of the incident.

Schmeichel lay writhing on the ground after the challenge. He finished the game limping, and the club said he suffered a badly swollen ankle that could keep him out of tomorrow's crucial league game against Chelsea.

After the final whistle, Schmeichel pointed and shouted at Wright as the players headed into the tunnel. The Arsenal striker had to be restrained as he went after Schmeichel, with police officers and stewards stepping between the two.

The bad blood between the two players dates back to November

when Wright accused the Dane of using racist abuse during Arsenal's loss at Old Trafford.

Police informed referee Martin Bodenham of the post-game confrontation and he confirmed he would include it in his match report to the Football Association.

The FA could decide to charge Wright with misconduct or bring the game into dispute.

Wright, who leads the Premier League with 24 goals, has already served a three-match ban this season after a sending-off. Wednesday's yellow card took him past 21 disciplinary points for another two-match suspension.

# Maccabi reaches Final 16

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Maccabi Tel Aviv advanced to the European Final 16 in dramatic fashion, securing a 82-78 victory over Olympiakos only in the closing seconds before a packed house at Yad Elihu last night.

The win pushed Maccabi's record in the final pool to 9-7 and sent it into the next round to face Efes Pilsen in the best-of-three series starting on March 6.

Randy White, injured earlier in the week during practice, came up with the game of the season, scoring 24 points on 10-14 shooting. He also pulled down six rebounds and had five steals to give Maccabi a needed presence at both ends of the court against the four-time defending Greek champions.

Maccabi broke a 78-78 tie with only 14 seconds remaining when Derrick Sharp scored his first points of the half on an open jumper. Olympiakos then raced down the court, but Georgias Sigalas' shot was partially blocked and Brad Leaf was fouled collecting the rebound with 4.4 seconds left on the clock.

Leaf, 32-32 from the free-throw line in European play to that point, then coolly stepped up to the line to sink his two shots, seal the victory and save the season for the blue-and-yellow.

The tension in the stadium was at fever pitch all night, as Maccabi

knew entering the game it needed a win or would be eliminated from European play. CSKA Moscow had already defeated Charleroi 80-66 in Moscow before the tip-off in Tel Aviv, meaning Maccabi had only itself to rely on if it was to advance, something it has not done since the 1991-1992 season.

The tight match seemed to finally go Maccabi's way when midway through the second half Maccabi turned a 60-59 deficit with 11 minutes remaining into a 71-62 advantage with only 6:25 left thanks to a technical on Olympiakos's head coach that gave the Israelis a six-point play.

But Maccabi, unpredictable as usual, kept its fans on the edge of their seats as David Rivers and Dragan Tarlach led a comeback for Olympiakos, which as European finalists in both 1994 and 1995 knows a thing or two about crucial games.

To make matters worse, both Nadav Henefeld and Buck Johnson had fouled out for the Israelis. Luckily for Maccabi, however, White stepped forward to carry the team on his shoulders, scoring the next seven points for Maccabi.

He had plenty of help on a night where several Maccabi players came through in the clutch. Henefeld was scoreless in the first half and committed his fourth foul 30 seconds after the break but

managed to keep himself in the game for the next 13 minutes, scoring nine key points in the process.

Buck Johnson led Maccabi in the first half, scoring 16 of his 22 points, mostly on strong moves in the paint. This inside presence was all the more important for Maccabi, which was out-rebounded all night by the taller and strong Greeks.

Doron Sheffer, who was also in foul trouble, turned in a steady performance with nine points and seven rebounds.

And Leaf, who has been sorely missed recently in European play due to an injury, made his usually key contributions.

Maccabi had fallen behind 44-39 with only 46 seconds remaining in the first half when Leaf got himself to the foul line for five shots, making all of them to knot up the score at the break. The last three came after he had gathered a rebound, raced down the court, and was fouled throwing up a shot from well behind the three-point line as time ran out.

Maccabi finished fourth in Group E after Alba Berlin defeated Stefanel Milan 91-80. This meant that Alba finished second with a 10-6 mark, while Olympiakos edged out Maccabi (both 9-7) for the third spot thanks to the Greeks' nine-point victory last month over Maccabi.

Maccabi faces a tough series against Efes Pilsen, which finished first in its group with a 12-4 record and has the support of its fanatical Turkish fans for the first and, if needed, last game.

For Olympiakos, Rivers scored 19, Sigalas 17, Tarlach 14, and Evric Gray 12.

For Maccabi, White had 24, Johnson 22, Henefeld and Sheffer 9, Leaf 7, Sharp 6, Borko Radulovic 3 and Oded Katash 2, sinking his only points of the night on free throws following the technical.

The other final 16 matchups from Group E will pit Olympiakos against Partizan Belgrade and Stefanel Milan against Kinard Bologna, which edged into the next round with a 73-57 home victory over Split last night.

The other teams advancing to the Final 16 are Teamsystem Bologna, Cibona Zagreb, Estudiantes Madrid, Limoges, Panathinaikos, Villeurbanne, Olympia Ljubljana and San Fernando (from Spain).

Group E				
	W	L	Pts	
Stefanel Milan	11	5	27	
Alba Berlin	10	6	26	
Olympiakos	9	7	25	
Maccabi Tel Aviv	9	7	25	
CSKA Moscow	8	8	24	
Charleroi	1	15	17	

— Clinched final 16 spot

## Raptors set team three-point mark

SAN ANTONIO (Reuters) — Damon Stoudamire scored 21 points to lead six players in double figures and the Toronto Raptors established a team record for three-pointers in a 125-92 rout of the hapless San Antonio Spurs Wednesday.

The Raptors never trailed, posted a season high in points while knocking down 15 three-pointers.

Toronto snapped a five-game losing string with just their fourth road win in 24 away games this season.

"I was nervous about the game but we were determined to get a win on this road trip," said Raptors coach Darrell Walker. "Our club played really hard tonight. We got some easy shots and made some big threes."

Walt Williams scored 19 points and Carlos Rogers added 18 and nine rebounds for the Raptors, who shot 55 percent (49-of-89) from the field and 60 percent (15-of-25)

from three-point range, while out-rebounding the Spurs 55-35.

"I have no sympathy for them," Williams said. "Last year, when I was with Sacramento, they kicked our butts all over the place."

Dominique Wilkins and Carl Hazzard scored 17 points apiece for San Antonio, losers of five in a row. The injury-riddled Spurs, who have been without star center David Robinson for most of the season, have 39 losses in 51 games after losing just 43 games in the previous two seasons combined.

Magic 95, Blazers 84  
Penny Hardaway scored 21 points and Horace Grant added 20

**WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:**  
Charlotte 123, Phoenix 115  
Atlanta 106, Indiana 97  
Detroit 100, Washington 85  
Orlando 95, Portland 84  
Toronto 125, San Antonio 92  
Minnesota 84, Vancouver 73  
Cleveland 103, L.A. Lakers 81  
Golden State 112, Boston 104

and 10 rebounds as the host Magic made a winner out of new coach Richie Adubato.

Adubato was making his debut as Orlando head coach after Brian Hill was fired Tuesday.

Orlando center Rony Seikaly

was ejected with 5:24 remaining after receiving two technicals for arguing with officials. But the Magic, who led 82-79 after Isiah Rider made both free throws for Portland, went on an 8-0 run to put the game away.



Orlando Magic forward Dennis Scott confronts Portland's Clifford Robinson.

## Ein Gedi Race sets off tomorrow

By HEATHER CHAIT

The 15th Ein Gedi Race, the lowest race on earth, in memory of Giora and Tomer Ron, will set off tomorrow morning, regardless of the weather.

This year's race combines sport and politics as runners from last week's Luxor Marathon in Egypt will be competing. Following contacts between the organizers of both races, a timetable was drawn up offering runners the opportunity to enter both events.

One hundred runners from Germany will be the first group to participate in the double running festival.

Among the 1,000 runners at the starting line will also be runners from Morocco, Kenya, Spain and the United States.

Some of the prominent names are Boiya Bernard Renlon from Kenya with his best time of 1:01.26 in the half-marathon, Jose

Maria Fernandez Atienza from Spain (1:02.23) and Patric Ndayesenga, second in the Tel Aviv Marathon whose best time is 1:02.33. Hungarian Helena Barossi, who won the women's race last year, has also entered.

Local names include Assaf Bino, Ayalah Setine, Amit Neiman, Dov Krenar and among the women Idit Ganot Keren-Zvi and Ella Krimus.

Besides the half-marathon which starts at 10:15 am, there will also be a 10km run at 10:00 and a 2km race for children at 10:30.

The men's and women's winners will each receive NIS 3,000 with NIS 2,000 for a second place finish and NIS 1,000 for third place. A record-breaking time of less than 1:04.15 for the men and 1:14.41 for the women will result in a bonus of NIS 1,500.

Late entries will be accepted until 4 pm today at (07) 6594422.

## Motevassel last Israeli left in tennis satellite

By HEATHER CHAIT

Top seed Oren Motevassel is the last Israeli player in today's semi-finals of the Club Hotel Eilat satellite in Ashkelon.

Motevassel will play sixth seed Dmitri Tomashevich from Uzbekistan. Yesterday Motevassel beat Jim Thomas from the United States 7-5, 6-4 and Tomashevich defeated Amir Hadad who had disposed of Noam Behr in a surprising second-round match. Tomashevich won 7-6(7/4), 6-1 against Hadad.

The other semifinal will be a contest between unseeded players Julien Varlet from France and Claude N'Goran. Varlet, a qualifier in the competition who beat last week's winner Andrew Ilie in the second round, yesterday knocked out fourth seed Argentinian Andres Zingman 4-6, 7-6(7/1), 6-3.

N'Goran, who was responsible for second seed Nir Weigreen's exit, yesterday beat Yoni Etlich 6-4, 7-5.

Today's matches begin at 10:30 am with the final tomorrow at the same time.

## NHL SCOREBOARD

EASTERN CONFERENCE							WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division							Central Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	33	16	9	75	190	143	Dallas	34	22	4	72	179	150
New Jersey	28	17	11	69	153	134	Detroit	28	28	6	61	187	184
Florida	28	18	13	69	165	157	St. Louis	28	29	1	57	168	185
N.Y. Rangers	28	24	9	65	201	167	Phoenix	27	28	5	58	169	180
Washington	26	29	6	52	151	188	Chicago	23	28	8	54	154	155
N.Y. Islanders	19	29	10	48	158	171	Toronto	22	36	2	46	175	215
Tampa Bay	20	29	7	47	183	177	Pacific Division						
Northeast Division							Colorado	38	14	8	79	198	135
Buffalo	30	19	10	70	170	148	Edmonton	29	25	8	64	188	174
Pittsburgh	31	22	5	67	213	186	Calgary	24	29	7	55	180	174
Montreal	28	22	11	67	182	216	Vancouver	26	29	2	54	185	197
Hartford	22	28	5	52	183	188	Anaheim	27	28	6	52	166	177
Ottawa	26	28	12	52	184	170	San Jose	21	29	8	48	161	182
Boston	20	31	7	47	166	204	Los Angeles	19	33	8	46	158	205
WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: N.Y. Rangers 1, New Jersey 1; Hartford 2,													



